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14 July 1983

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

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GCC MILITARY OFFICIALS MEET, DISCUSS COOPERATION

East Burnham AL-DIFA' AL-ISLAMI in Arabic No 2, Apr-Jun 83 pp 52, 53

[Article by Muhammad al-Mukhtar Fal: "First Roundtable Held by Ideological Guidance, Public Relations Branches of Gulf Cooperation Council Armies"]

[Text] As part of the intense efforts on all levels in the countries which are members of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council toward an understanding of this cooperation and toward strengthening its effect on the people and official bodies in these countries, the directors of the ideological guidance administrations of the Council countries' armies met in Kuwait City on Sunday, 20 December 1982, at the invitation of Col 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Kharraz, director ideological guidance and public relations for the Kuwaiti army. They took part in the first meeting of the directors of ideological guidance and public relations of the armies of the GCC, held from 10 December to 23 December 1982. The goals of this meeting were underscored in the speech given by the Kuwaiti chief of staff at the opening ceremonies, when he said, "Unifying the bases of ideological guidance among our armies will complete the molding of the Gulf soldier."

The Kuwaiti working paper submitted for this purpose was discussed and debated. Since the other delegations did not submit working papers, it was the only one submitted. Brig Gen 'Aqil al-Quway'i, public affairs officer for the Saudi army and head of the Saudi delegation, was asked his opinion of what was said in the paper. He answered, "The paper is a good basis for thinking about strengthening brotherly cooperation and will be discussed so that we can arrive at a final format."

To give the reader a glimpse of what happened at the conference, we will summarize the most important points in the Kuwaiti working paper:

1. Following creation of the GCC, security and defense requirements have gone beyond regional borders to include the entire Gulf area.
2. There is a pressing need to set up special channels of thought to build the Gulf soldier mentally and culturally. The channels that exist now are weak and their sources diverse, making the Gulf resident's culture (of which the soldier is a part) a product of different cultures. This will not help build a person who is ideologically whole if he is left exposed to these mixed germs.

The Kuwaiti paper seeks a format for this essential course to achieve a proper military culture and sees it available only through Islam. The paper also seeks a method parallel to this course, which is the essential national factor, with the beneficial elements of modern culture added. Perhaps it is in this point specifically that things become unclear, for Islam in its pure interpretation does not need to make these distinctions. They are part of Islam and separating them from Islam is the influence of western culture.

3. The Kuwaiti paper lays out a practical format for achieving these ambitions and hopes:

- a. Establishing a central office to coordinate among the Council armies' ideological guidance branches.
- b. Establishing a strong communications network among ideological guidance branches.
- c. Unifying 50 percent of military television and radio procedures.
- d. Publishing a combined annual issue of all military magazines.
- e. Building up the ideological guidance branches with more cadres and money.
- f. The coordination office should establish means of cooperation between the guidance branches and the press and broadcast media in the council states.
- g. Discussing the nature of the coordination office.
- h. The Gulf armies should finance the office.

The roundtable continued for 3 days, and at the end of the third day the closing statement was issued, affirming the conferees' agreement on the importance of meeting together to strengthen brotherly relations and exchange expertise in a sphere that is important and vital to the Gulf area. The following recommendations were issued:

1. A coordination office should be established to supervise and follow up the tasks described in the attachment to these recommendations. The office would be known as "Central Coordination Office of Ideological Guidance and Public Relations Administrations of Gulf Cooperation Council Armies."
2. The State of Kuwait should be designated interim headquarters of the office until it is joined with the general secretariat of the GCC in the future.

3. The ideological guidance and public relations officer of the Kuwaiti army should be appointed head of the office for the period that it is located in Kuwait. He would manage the office and be in charge of the staff.
4. The countries that are members of the Council should share the expenses of the office equally. Expenditures for the first year have been projected at \$180,000, to include office rent, writers' fees, subscriptions, various types of correspondence, transportation expenses and secretarial requirements.
5. A strong direct communications network should be provided among the ideological guidance and public relations leaders in the armies of the Council countries.
6. The ideological guidance and public relations administrations of the armies of the GCC countries should coordinate with the information media in their countries in covering national and military occasions in member countries.
7. Expertise and ideas should be exchanged through reciprocal visits among army officers in the Council countries, especially on matters concerning ideological guidance and public relations.
8. The number of military magazines and publications exchanged by the ideological guidance and public relations branches of the armies should be increased.
9. Short military courses should be held on ideological guidance and public relations to be attended by officers, noncommissioned officers and other personnel from the ideological guidance and public relations branches of the GCC armies. The Saudi delegation suggested adopting such courses in the future, when the appropriate preparations have been made.
10. The names of these branches should be standardized as "ideological guidance and public relations" in the GCC countries' armies.
11. Development of operational methods and procedures in the ideological guidance and public relations branches should be encouraged by:
 - (1) Appointing public relations officers in the various military units to be in direct contact with ideological guidance and public relations leaders.
 - (2) Publishing military education booklets to urge adherence to the principles of the true religion, proper ethics and military discipline and obligations.

(3) Giving lectures and holding forums in various parts of the universities, at various stages of education and before public groups to introduce the public to the military and to its importance to society, as well as to urge young people to enlist in the military service.

(4) Establishing libraries in the various military units.

(5) Supporting the ideological guidance and public relations branches in the armies in carrying out their informational duties by supplying the necessary technical materials and qualified cadres.

12. Annual educational and religious competitions should be held among the armies, with a 6-month interval between the two types of competitions and each one held in a different country. The ideological guidance and public relations branches of the armies should select committees to evaluate and examine the competitions.

13. The semi-annual magazine supervised by the coordination office should be named "Ideological Cooperation."

14. At the request of the head of the Saudi delegation, the second meeting of ideological guidance and public relations branches of the GCC armies will be held in Saudi Arabia in October 1983.

If Saudi Arabia is unable to host the second meeting, it will be held in the Sultanate of Oman during the same month at the request of the head of the Omani delegation.

15. The ideological guidance and public relations directors of the armies should hold an annual meeting in a different country each year.

Duties of the Coordination Office

1. Issuing a semi-annual magazine "Ideological Cooperation," which would include the most important and valuable articles from the military magazines issued by the armies of the GCC and would be distributed to all member countries.

2. Representing the permanent secretariat of the ideological guidance and public relations officers' roundtables.

3. Coordinating exchange visits among ideological guidance branches in the member countries.

4. Coordinating the exchange of radio and television programs and military news.

5. Coordinating among member countries to set up courses on ideological guidance and public relations and decide the number of participants.
6. Coordinating newspaper, radio and television interviews with ministers of defense and chiefs of staff during meetings at the headquarters of the Council's secretariat general.

General Observations

1. In enforcing these articles and regulating the initiatives originating from them, the differing levels of development among the member countries should be considered. Any member may be granted a temporary exemption from enforcement of the provisions of certain articles when necessitated by a temporary domestic situation or specific circumstances. The exemption should be for a period specified by decision of the ideological guidance directors.
2. These recommendations will enter into force after they are approved by the chiefs of staff of the GCC countries.
3. When the provisions of these articles contravene local laws and regulations, the member countries should determine priority of enforcement.

9882

CSO: 4404/375

MUBARAK'S TREATMENT OF COPTS VIEWED

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic No 316, 23-29 May 83 pp 22-23

[Article by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Badrkhan: "Mubarak Has Differed From the Sadat Inheritance in Everything ... Save With the Copts. The Pope Has Not Come Back, Nor Has the Collective Leadership Remained. Shanudah Has Sought Refuge in Litigation, Hoping for a Solution, and So His Case Has Increased in Complexity"]

[Text] One of the results of the bloody sectarian clashes that Egypt witnessed in the autumn of 1981 was that an imbalance arose in the relations of the regime of the late President Anwar al-Sadat and the Islamic religious societies, not to mention the Copts. This was reflected in the harrassment and prosecution of the organization 'al-Jihad' and of some Copts who were charged with political activity with the goal of creating a climate of discord.

When President al-Sadat was assassinated in October of the same year, President Husni Mubarak inherited from him two sensitive files with which he tried to deal with a certain amount of balance. Many think that this balance has seemed artificial and forced at many times, since the regime's problem with the religious societies is different from its problem with the Copts.

Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal relates in Autumn of Fury how the relationship between the Coptic church and the state in Egypt developed, taking the form of a silent struggle which peaked in 1977 when Pope Shanudah was able to expand his churchly authority in Africa while the Islamic religious societies were pressuring the political system, which agreed with them to the extent of recognizing the principle of making the Islamic shari'ah one of the bases for the laws of the state and requiring that it apply to all Egyptians, both Muslims and non-Muslims.

Al-Sadat chose to confront and challenge Shanudah, so that relations between the two of them reached the height of tension in 1980, when the head of the church refused to encourage Copts to make the pilgrimage to Jerusalem as part of the normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel.

It ought to be mentioned that those Copts who emigrated to the United States demonstrated against al-Sadat during his last visit to Washington,

stimulating his resentment, so that his vengeance against them was sharp and included the Copts of Egypt and Pope Shanudah himself. He asked the journalists accompanying him to convey what he said to Egyptian public opinion. As soon as September 1981 arrives, he deposed the pope and appointed in his place the council of bishops. When Mubarak visited the United States last January, he was confronted by intense demonstrations by emigre Copts, who continuously protested against the deposition of the pope and his imprisonment. However, he asked the journalists accompanying him not to speak about these demonstrations.

The journalists heard him say quiet things which showed that Mubarak understood the demands of the demonstrators who, in the end, were Americans, while the Egyptian president preferred to limit his attention to the Egyptian people, both Muslims and Copts.

Between Mubarak and Al-Sadat

The difference between the two presidents was the form which each one's reaction took. Mubarak has been distinguished up until now from his predecessor on the level of action. Although the Copts have relied to a large degree on Mubarak, they have been disappointed by his method of dealing with the Coptic side of the al-Sadat legacy, since he has relied on a solution based on security considerations and the police and has neglected the political solution which could have allowed a resolution which would have done honor to both parties. The state would have gained peacefulness and loyalty from the Copts, while the dignity of the head of the Coptic church would have been preserved.

The last chapter in the case of the Copts and the state in Egypt came with the ruling of the administrative court in the lawsuit brought by Pope Shanudah against the president of the republic and the prime minister. The court agreed to negate the decision by the president of the republic to create a council of bishops to carry out the pope's duties, but did not agree to negate the second half of the decision, which had to do with separating the pope from his office. In the opinion of many Copts, among them Dr Milad Hanna, author of the book "Yes, We Are Copts, But We Are Also Egyptians," who was imprisoned in the campaign launched by al-Sadat against his opponents a month before he was assassinated, the court's decision has made the issue more complicated and made its solution more difficult both in security terms and politically. The reason is that the Coptic church has become officially without leadership, since the pope is deposed and the bishops' council dissolved.

Shanudah's Mistake

Dr Hanna, who is one of the leaders of the Unionist Grouping Party, thinks that the way in which the conflict with Pope Shanoudah has been handled on the level of the courts hurts both sides, both the church and the state. He says the solution must be political in order to produce confidence among the Copts. How? The political solution would begin with freeing Shanudah and limiting his activity to the spiritual and religious side. It would be

completed by winning the Copts over to political activity within the Egyptian parties. While the late President Gamal 'Abd-al-Nasir was in power, the Copts were like a snail, politically speaking. However, they were reconciled to his rule, because he "provided social justice and the minorities were not hurt or suppressed during his era, thanks to the concept of integral opportunities." Moreover, he "combated the Islamic religious current, which the Copts consider to be the greatest danger to their existence in Egypt." Hanna continues by saying that during the era of al-Sadat socialist values and social justice disappeared, the differences between the classes increased and the influence of the Islamic religious current increased. The Copts curled like a snail once again around their religious leadership and "if Pope Shanouda had not existed, the Copts would have created another one," since that was a natural reaction.

What is the story of the lawsuit? After al-Sadat was assassinated, Shanudah submitted a complaint to the ethics court concerning the decision which had resulted in his deposition. In the opinion of Dr Hanna, this was the first mistake the pope made, since as far as resorting to litigation is concerned, his case is no different from that of a university professor who loses his job because of his political views or the employee who complains about his lack of advancement. At that time, the lawyer 'Abd-al-Halim Ramadan brought a lawsuit in which he contested the decision to depose the pope before the Supreme Court for Administrative Justice called 'the council of state.' The ethics court refused the pope's request that the decision deposing him be negated. His lawyer joined 'Abd-al-Halim Ramadan's case and the whole issue became merely a contest between Shanudah and the government.

The president of the court, Sa'd Abu 'Awf, had canceled all the September 1981 decisions and ruled that the decisions of the president of the republic were in the last analysis administrative decisions that the court could consider. According to Dr Hanna, this was a big democratic gain, since it allowed the journalists and professors who had been imprisoned to be returned to their previous work. Consequently, Coptic public opinion had the impression that this ruling would have to include the decision relating to Pope Shanudah. However, the government applied pressure to the pope and he gave up the urgent side of his case, which is to say the side concerning setting him free. He thought that he could thereby present the government with a gift which it would reciprocate by hastening to free him via a governmental decree. Thereafter, the presidency of the court changed and the general political climate changed as well, as the execution of the rulings in the al-Sadat assassination case drew near. The government therefore made haste to postpone the case of the pope, while promising those concerned that it would definitely be solved by a government decree.

The Copts awaited a solution in the form of the above mentioned court's decision. However, the government's desire to maintain the 'security balance' between the Copts and Muslims was still dominant.

The decision was issued in the form we pointed out above. It did not solve the problem, but merely made it more complex or at least postponed its solution.

The Issue of the Islamic Societies

Some think that this decision was tantamount to a security preparation for the expected issuing of extreme rulings against the elements of 'al-Jihad' since it spared the portion of the al-Sadat decree which deposed the pope and so left the Coptic church without administrative leadership, as well as requesting that an administrative officer be appointed to fill the office of the pope, something which would be very difficult to carry out.

The papal committee, which possesses the right of nominating candidates for this position, was dismissed, and the blessed group (56 bishops) is inoperative vis-a-vis the inclinations of those who have the right to convene it. The government alone does not possess a law, a customary right or a policy which would give it the right to appoint a patriarchal administrative official.

Dr Hanna, like other Copts, believes that the situation will remain in a state of flux for a time during which Pope Shanudah will be able to renew his case before the Supreme Judicial Board in the expectation that the political atmosphere will change once again in a way that will permit the government, after about a year, to cancel the deposition of the pope.

At any rate, the Copts are currently feeling frustrated. They expected a lot from Mubarak, of whom they say that he has the 'chance of a lifetime' to win over the Copts. No confrontation between him and them has taken place. Rather, they supported him with power and backing in the presidential elections. However, Mubarak did not play the game of cooperation with them with political logic, but dealt with them from the point of view of the policeman who places security over politics. His calculations make it seem that he is avoiding entering into conflict with the Islamic groups. He has preferred not to satisfy the Copts as long as he has not yet defined his relationship with these groups.

Does this mean that the Copts have given up hope for President Mubarak?

It is likely that they still depend on him as, so it is said, 'a secular thinker' and on his position being one of neutrality between the Copts and the Muslims. Moreover, his behavior indicates that he leans toward western civilization, in the broad sense of the term. Nevertheless, many believe that he has begun to lose the mass of Copts without having really gained the Islamic societies which still are searching for a place on the political stage.

12224

CSO: 4504/419

HEALTH MINISTRY OFFICIAL CONDEMNED BY DOCTORS

Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 18 May 83 p 9

[Article: "Doctors Accuse A Health Ministry Undersecretary"]

[Text] It is indeed astonishing if true. The formal complaint before top officials states that a health ministry undersecretary carried out an abduction and beating and threatened worse.

Against whom?

A doctor working in a department which the undersecretary heads!

The reason?

The undersecretary learned that the "accusing" doctor had lodged complaints against him with officials.

Where was this, why, and how? What are the details of these alleged complaints?

Here is the story as related by its author Dr Muhammad Mahmud Salim who works in the Tal'it Harb Clinic for health insurance in al-Mahallah al-Kubra.

Compulsory Entertainment

In his formal complaint, Dr Salim states, "One night in March last year I was surprised by visitors at dawn who took me to compulsory "entertainment" at the home of Dr Mahmud Ma'ud Jami' who is undersecretary of the health ministry, director general of health insurance in the Middle Delta division in the governorates of al-Gharbiyah, al-Minufiyah and Kafr al-Shaykh, and a member of the consultative council of the National Party. I was forced to be a party to this entertainment. I went to the home of the undersecretary who swore at me and threatened to kill me with his own hands. He vied with a number of those present, including someone who claimed that he was an inspector and would 'crush' me with his car.

I was forced to admit in writing that I had made deceitful complaints in writing against the undersecretary and that I had submitted them to the ministry, the president of the Republic, and other officials. Then I was released."

Dr Salim states that the day following this "operation," he submitted complaints to the public prosecutor, the attorney general in Tanta, and the Socialist public prosecutor in which he elaborated on these details.

This was 1 year ago.

Investigation of the matter has not yet begun. All these complaints have not progressed one step in their natural and legal course.

The Beginning Was "Natural"

Dr Mahmud Ma'ud Jami' began his career normally when he graduated from the faculty of medicine in 1955. He was appointed for 1 year at a salary of 15 pounds, as were the other doctors who graduated in his class. He did as the others. In 1964 he reached the sixth service rank and his salary amounted to only 41 Egyptian pounds. He did not reach the fifth rank until 1970.

However, under circumstances which remain obscure to many, according to Dr Muhammad Salim, he was suspended from work and discharged one day in 1971, while remaining in the fifth service rank.

On the day after he was discharged, he was appointed (!) by resolution of the then governor of al-Gharbiyah as director of the Tanta charity hospital. He remained in this position until 1976. During this 5-year period he reached the rank of director general!

It was a surprise when he reached the rank of undersecretary of the ministry in 1982, by virtue of a cabinet resolution!

He left the charity hospital officially 6 years ago and held positions higher than that of its director during this period, even though to the present day, he has not yet left it. He still has an office in it and a superb place to relax.

Dr Salim states that the charity hospital operates for the benefit of Dr Jami'.

His Brother Dr Muhammad Ma'ud Jami'

After graduating from the faculty of pharmacology in 1971 he was transferred to the charity hospital where brother was director. He was on loan to Saudi Arabia between 1973 and 1977. During his absence he was appointed director of medical supply, over others more deserving. He advanced to the second rank through an unpublicized examination. He was the only candidate taking it. He now received 5 percent of the revenues from the pharmacy, as its director. Officially, he has no connection with this position.

His Sister Qadariyah Ma'ud Jami'

She obtained the preparatory diploma and was named chairman of the public relations division of the medical insurance branch! Her income from the government is approximately 170 pounds! She comes to work "occasionally."

His uncle Muhammad'Arfah Jami' has an intermediate diploma in commerce. Despite that, his income from the government is not less than 170 pounds per month (even when he was occupied exclusively with studies at the Cooperation Institute). He was transferred to the charity hospital in 1976.

Dr Jami' contracted with his brother-in-law Mr Darwish, an employee in spinning, to work overtime at the hospital. He receives a salary for him, but he doesn't do anything!

The fiance of his niece Dr 'Adil Salim was allowed by Dr Jami' to have an additional job at the hospital during the period of his compulsory military service.

In addition, he concluded work contracts with his nephews for jobs during summer vacations while they were still in secondary school.

Dr Jami' personally has a monthly income from the government divided as follows: his salary of 210 pounds, plus 150 pounds for overtime and 50 pounds as director of the charity hospital, although officially he does not have this job; 160 pounds as incentive pay; 400 pounds from the treatment and service improvement funds of the charity hospital (he does not work in them); 100 pounds as reimbursement for travel and overnight stays (he enjoys use of most of the division's cars); and 210 pounds from the treatment and service improvement funds of the division.

All these extra allowances and salaries come to approximately 17,000 pounds per year.

That is in addition to other sums he receives at various times from the al-Hilal hospital in Shibin al-Kawm, the charity hospital in al-Mahallah al-Kubra, his income from the companies which have contracts with the charity hospital, other extra allowances under various names, and his allowances for membership in the consultative council, etc.

As for his property, he has two buildings in Alexandria, one in Tanta, apartments between Tanta, Alexandria and Giza, two chalets in al-'Ajami, a piece of land on the corniche by the Nile in Cairo, partnership in a company, a bank account, etc.

The complainant says that Dr Jami' has sumptuous, air-conditioned offices in the branch department in Tanta, another in the charity hospital, and a third in the organization in Cairo where his main work is based.

In addition to all this, he has made himself a superb place to relax at the charity hospital out of a bedroom complete with air-conditioning, a telephone and television, plus a reception room, an office, and a lavatory.

This place to relax has taken up the space of two first-class rooms in the hospital which would otherwise bring in 22,000 pounds for the hospital per year.

The Victims Are Many

When director of the Khalid Bin al-Walid Clinic Dr Hasan al-Rifa'i objected to the behavior of Dr Jami', he was demoted to practitioner in the clinic and was deprived of bonuses and incentive pay amounting to more than 100 percent of his salary. His wife who used to be employed as a branch bookkeeper was also treated unfairly.

Dr Jami' demoted 'Ali al-Hibbal (an aide) to the rank of worker, prevented him from registering for 15 days and fired him. Al-Hibbal brought a lawsuit against him. The case was decided in al-Hibbal's favor. He was to return to work and be compensated for damages incurred. Dr Jami's assistants hid the papers from his dossier. He returned, as Dr Jami' wished, as a worker and was deprived of all allowances. He was then transferred to a small village of al-Ziyyat and then to Tanta.

He chased away all employees in bookkeeping with university degrees from work at the charity hospital, so that he might allow his nephew Muhammad 'Arfah Jami' to occupy a post unmerited by either his diploma or experience.

He treated a worker, Muhammad al-Sayid al-Mu'amli, unfairly. He prevented him too from signing in each day in the attendance book. Once the 15-day period of failure to sign in had passed, he fired him. This person's only crime was that his sister had been working in the private home of Dr Jami'. When the time of her wedding approached, her family took her from the doctor's service so she could devote herself to her husband and home.

The Downfall is Frightening

With the situation in the Middle Delta branch, Dr Muhammad 'Abbas 'Awdah, director of the charity hospital in Tanta, resigned because of his strong opposition to certain purchases and to the distribution of bonuses.

A letter was forged, allegedly sent from the director of the hospital "who had resigned" asking that his resignation be withdrawn. This prompted Dr 'Awdah to send a letter to Dr Jami' in which he assumed responsibility.

Dr 'Awdah sent a registered letter to Dr Jami' in which he said, "I inform you that in view of your political job and professional position, I take seriously your threats which vary between sending me to an unknown place (al-Dubban al-Azraq), to quote you, and something worse."

He added, "This is a situation which compels me to resort to one who has the authority to firmly establish the rule of law in a society with pure hands and tongue."

Dr 'Awdah sent a letter to the minister of health. He said, "I ask a committee from your office, supported by a representative from administrative control, to examine the activities of the Middle Delta branch. I also want to ask your permission to raise certain matters with the Socialist public prosecutor and the public prosecutor, for it is not in your nature nor that of Husni Mubarak to allow Ismat al-Sadat, Rashad 'Uthman, and Tawfig 'Abd al-Hayy to do as they please."

"When all is said and done, the one request by employees is that the minister of health conduct an investigation into the matters concerning Dr Mahmud Ma'ud Jami', undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for health insurance and member of the consultative council. There should be a commitment to prevent his influencing the course of the investigation and annul his appointment as director general of the health insurance division in the Middle Delta. He may retain his original employment as section chief of the organization in Cairo until the investigations are over."

Will the employee's request be taken seriously by the minister of health?

We hope so, in order that the truth comes out, we learn who is right, who is wrong, and the extent to which the charges against a man in a position of responsibility are true.

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SINAI CONSTRUCTION GIVES RISE TO NEW COMMUNITIES

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 13 Apr 83 p 6

[Article by Mahmud Ghanim and Anwar Muhammad: "Three New Apartment Blocks in North Sinai"]

[Text] The Sinai Construction Agency has begun building three new apartment blocks. The first is at the entry of al-'Arish, the second at Bi'r al-'Abd, and the third at Ra's al-Sidr. The new apartment blocks will accommodate nearly 50,000 people. It has been decided to reinforce the communications network to link the touristic communities in South Sinai and to upgrade lines of communications between Sinai and governorate capitals by adding air-conditioned buses.

The agency is building a community near Lake Bardawil for 3,000 fisherman and their families, who add up to 20,000 persons. The agency is marketing fish for them through the National Fish Company. It is building another community in al-Tur and transferring home ownership to the fishermen. It is building a factory for fishing boats and nets and is offering fishermen long-term loans.

President of the agency Dr 'Ali Abu Zayid made this statement. He also said that plans are being made for the al-'Arish touristic coast which is 80 kilometer long. A Touristic area will be built on Lake Bardawil 20 kilometers long. An area of 60 kilometers is being divided and distributed to trade unions and cooperative associations. Chalets, cabanas, tourist youth camps with summer tents, and touristic sites for people with cars are being built. Also, a swimming beach is being prepared in the area of al-Tur.

He said that the Ministry of Construction will undertake construction of a number of industrial projects in cooperation with the ministries of industry and petroleum. They will be based on oil discoveries, building manganese factories, white sand to produce glass, and coal from caves of the Sinai.

The agency has re-drilled 35 water wells around Rafah which Israel had damaged and destroyed with reinforced concrete. The contracting company is rebuilding three water tanks with a capacity of 13,000 cubic meters in al-Mansurah and Daklah near Rafah. Israel had destroyed them before withdrawing on 25 April. The agency has completed construction of a temporary crossing gate in Taba pending settlement of the border problem in this region and construction of a permanent gate.

The agency president added that planning is underway for construction of a touristic area containing tourist motels and hotels, recreational facilities, and a beach near the village of Yamit which the Israelis destroyed. It has been decided to leave the village as it is, in a state of devastation and destruction.

The bus lines between Cairo and cities of the South Sinai Governorate are to be improved with the addition of the most modern air-conditioned buses, and their schedules are to be adjusted. Short bus service lines will operate, linking the touristic communities of Nubay'ah, Dahab, and Sharm al-Shaykh.

It has been decided to introduce tourist buses between Sharm al-Shaykh and the summer resort Ni'mah during the Sinai festival next week. Yahya al-Ziyyat, president of the East Delta Bus Company, made this statement. He also said that Alexandria and al-Mansurah in the South Sinai Governorate are to be linked via the international station in Cairo at a cost of 25,000 pounds. He added that the lines Cairo--Sharm al-Shaykh, Sharm al-Shaykh--Taba, Sharm al-Shaykh--Saint Catherine, and Cairo--Saint Catherine will operate on a regular basis. There are 18 air-conditioned buses in service for tourism in the area, and some resthouses for passengers will be built along the highways.

He said that agreement has been reached with the Youth and Sports organization for the allocation of a bus to transport young people during the celebrations of the Sinai festival free of charge.

A contract has been made with the Sport Unions for the allocation of their vehicles at reduced prices for those participating in the celebrations of the Sinai festival at Sharm al-Shaykh.

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INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS IMPROVE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 10 May 83 pp 1, 14

[Article by Muhammad al-'Atar: "Agreement on 676 Private Sector Projects; 645 Million Pounds in Workers' Wages at Public Sector Factories"]

[Text] Minister of industry Dr Muhammad al-Gharuri has announced that agreement has been reached on 676 private sector projects with investment outlays of 629.5 million pounds.

He said that workers' wages in the public sector have risen to 645 million pounds annually. As a result, average monthly wages amount to 118 pounds, an increase of 15 pounds.

He said that interest in increasing industrial production has led to the completion of many of the projects responsible for supplying a great portion of the nation's commodities.

Most Important Projects

The minister of industry said that the following are among the most important projects in which the state is interested:

Sugar projects in Jarja, Kafr al-Shaykh, and al-Nubariyah which will add approximately 200,000 tons of sugar annually when implementation is completed. Sugar production capacity will rise to 1 million tons annually.

The overall cost of these projects amounts to 482 million pounds. The sum of 138 million pounds has been allocated for them in the plan, 55 million pounds of which are in the current budget which ends next June.

Projects upgrading and refitting spinning and textile mills in Kafr al-Duwwar, Hulwan, and al-Baydha' to improve both the production of thread and textiles and the equipment.

Projects adding new units to produce ready-made clothing in the factories of al-Shurbaji, Hulwan, and the Delta in Tanta and Sabaghah al-Mahallah.

Complete the expansion of cigarette factories to increase production from 36 billion to 47 billion cigarettes annually in the coming year and to 55 billion cigarettes in 1984-85.

A project for iron reinforcing bars in al-Dakhilah with a production capacity of 750,000 tons of reinforcing bars.

The Paper Industry

Paper production projects to develop and increase the efficiency of paper factories in Rakita and al-Ahiliyah and to begin operation of a new factory in Qus for writing paper and printing. It will depend on Sugar cane refuse as a primary material. Its production capacity will amount to 100,000 tons annually.

The New Valley phosphate project. It produces 7 million tons annually and is considered an important project in the overall regional expansion of new valley.

Dr Muhammad al-Gharuri said that indicators confirm that the industrial sector is contributing toward improving the deficit in the balance of last year. Receipts from industrial exports then amounted to 285 million pounds, while imported factory requirements came to 500 million pounds, a net burden of 215 million pounds on the balance of payments.

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CENTRAL REGION OFFICIAL DISCUSSES SECURITY, BORDER, INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES

Khartoum AL-AYYAM in Arabic 19 May 83 p 5

[Article: "Deputy Governor of Central Region Tells AL-AYYAM, 'Regional Reserve Force To Be Established in New Fiscal Year To Implement Provisions of Comprehensive Political Program; Conference Held this Month To Define Borders between Central Region and Ethiopia; Prison Camps To Be Taken Out of Cities'"]

[Text] In the context of AL-AYYAM's interviews with political and executive leaders in the Central Region, we had this interview with Mr Sa'd 'Awad, deputy governor of the Central Region who assumes in that region [the responsibility for] the functions of the police and security [forces], prisons, culture and the media. This is besides his duties as deputy governor.

The Police Sector

Mr Sa'd 'Awad says, "One of the most important and distinct problems we are facing in the police sector is this growing shortage in human resources which make up our police forces. It is a problem that has continued to get worse every day until the pyramid-like structure of this sector began to be reversed. While we have an abundant supply of police officers, we find that individuals refrain from joining the police service. To tell you the truth this problem does not pertain to the police of the Central Region only. This is a national problem that resulted from numerous conditions and circumstances. [The following] are the most important of these reasons:

"First, the police force in Sudan is governed by one law which is the Police Act. It stipulates that the police forces are regular forces that are formed by presidential decree after consultations with the National Defense Council. Because essential amendments to this law have not been issued to make the law compatible with regional government, many matters cannot be settled without going back to headquarters. The information we have indicates that an amendment to the Police Act has been drafted and that it has been presented to the authorized agencies for their consideration and approval.

"Second, the financial condition of the police is governed by a regulatory financial ordinance that is in effect throughout the country. This ordinance is the stumbling block to any regional or local action whose purpose is to improve the professional status of policemen. It is the source of the problem because the unrewarding wages that members of the police force earn are the principal factor

in the fact that many of them flee from the force and many young people choose not to join its ranks.

"Third, the delay in amending the Police Act clouded up matters regarding the relationship between the governor of a province, the commissioner of a province and the chair of a district council.

"Fourth, the 1980 Local Popular Government Act, which defined the details that pertain to services to all units and facilities, ignored many of the details that pertain to the police sector.

"We are now trying to find the necessary means to solve the problems which are thwarting this vital sector. [The following] are the most important of these problems:

"1. Until the amendments to the Police Act are issued, an agreement was reached on the terms of the financial and administrative relationship between us in the regional capital, the commissioners and the districts. God willing, this relationship will be more efficient during the next fiscal year.

"2. We are devoting attention to the social aspects [of this matter]. We were thus inclined to support cooperative consumer societies for the police.

"We began implementing an interim, integrated project to maintain, renovate and increase housing for the police in the regional capital, and we are preparing group housing for bachelors.

"3. As a second step in remedying the professional status of policemen, we will focus on the recommendations of the Fourth Regional Conference and [the recommendations of] the comprehensive political program for the third term regarding the application of a new personnel police code for graduates of secondary schools.

"4. As a third step in developing the standard of police services, we are conducting a scientific study to refurbish the region's specific needs for policemen.

"5. The forementioned study includes the possibilities of introducing into the police in general and into the traffic police a system of special cadres. This system would be most like that of police superintendents, which is in effect in the Republic of Egypt.

"6. To carry out the provisions of the program for the third term in calling for the universal application of the successful experiment regarding the formation and training of a central reserve, we decided to establish a regional reserve unit, and we included a budget for it in budget proposals [we made] for the next fiscal year. This reserve force is to begin with one company, even though it is known that estimates of the region's need for such forces run around four companies.

"7. To provide weapons we are continuing our coordinating and cooperating communications with district agencies so that the weapons the police would have would be compatible with the nature of the areas where they work in the Central

Region. Our communications with district agencies regarding providing clothing and special equipment are also continuing. All these responsibilities are still those of police headquarters in Khartoum. We are also in the process of organizing a police conference in which all the questions and problems that caused the deterioration of police services will be discussed. This includes the financial status of policemen; the ensuing unwillingness to enlist; [the aversion] to renew one's term of service; or the attempt to violate the law to obtain an exemption from service."

State Security

The nature of the work and the makeup of this agency may not be conducive to a detailed discussion of state security. It was Mr Sa'd 'Awad, deputy governor who was talking, but I will review some security matters.

First, a governors' conference was held in November 1981, and it was chaired by the first vice president of the republic. This conference considered the problems and traced them from their early beginnings. It produced a directive for solving the basic problem, which is the problem of clearly defining the geographical boundaries between the provinces. The recommendation was as follows:

"The description of the borders of the four provinces mentioned in 'The Official Gazette' and delineated in the maps on file at the Surveying Department is to be adhered to in accordance with the borders that were in effect on the 1st day of January 1956 A.D."

In light of this directive a task force from Central Surveying set out late in January 1983 to conduct an actual survey of the borders. Their first camp was in Dabbah al-Fakhar and Qawz al-Nabaq on the borders between the White Nile and the Upper Nile [provinces]. But (al-Rink) authorities raised objections against the task force and prevented it from continuing its work under the pretext that their representation was not legal. We sent a memorandum about this matter to the first vice president, and we are still waiting for directives to come from the top. Since the problem of the borders has not been remedied yet, some problems are expected to occur. However, we are still pursuing the matter, and we still expect the central surveying team to go back to work.

The Borders between Ethiopia and Sudan

These are unique problems that are caused by Sudanese lumber merchants and by the fact that shepherds cross the border from both sides, particularly in the areas of Kurmuk, Qaysan and Khawr Yabus. The fact that people who live in the border areas have similar features helped bring these problems to the fore. Local security committees have grasped all these problems and have come up with appropriate solutions for them. A meeting will be held for Sudanese and Ethiopian executive officers on the 17th of May in the area of Mitra to pursue the situation. We emphasize our confidence in the ability and efficiency of the security committees to contain these problems, which, as I mentioned, are unique.

The National Electricity System

What is intended here is the system that extends from al-Damazin to Khartoum through Sannar, Maringan and Kilometer 10. This system carries electricity, [a

service] that is of interest to the economic and social sectors in the country. Saboteurs have recognized the importance of electricity and its effect on the national economy, and they are intentionally and deliberately trying to impair its function. This problem has been investigated, and suggestions as well as a complete concept for protecting the system has been set forth.

Mr Sa'd 'Awad went on to say, "Out of a sense of responsibility we gave considerable attention to agricultural and industrial projects, warehouses, workshops and many other establishments that are located in the province. We had to ensure fire protection for these establishments, and we began taking steps to develop a firefighting facility by conducting a general survey of the resources that we had. The result of the survey was quite unsatisfactory. It turned out that the region had 15 fire trucks for the various provinces and districts. Three of these fire trucks were unreliable. These are the ones that are presently in Sannar junction, Wad Nail and (al-Lakundi). In view of this situation we prepared a scientific study of the firefighters and the firefighting equipment we actually need. The total cost for the project to develop and modernize the fire department in the region amounted to 6,475,000 pounds. Of this sum 4,840,000 pounds would be in foreign currency, and 1,635,000 million would be in local currencies.

"This project can be implemented in three stages. The technical study suggests that the cost of the first stage will be about 3,690,000 pounds; the cost of the second stage will be about 2,150,000 pounds; and the cost of the third stage will be 635,000 pounds. The purpose of this project is to upgrade firefighting services in the region; to make these services stay in step with industrial, construction and social progress; to protect development projects and industries in both the public and private sectors; and to protect citizens and their property. We are trying to obtain funding for this project from foreign loans and contributions from the public and from the private sector that would benefit from these services."

The Prison Sector

The deputy governor said, "I can say that considerable progress has been made in the region's prisons toward firmly establishing the notion that prison is an institution for correction and rehabilitation. Although the 19th Conference for Prison Wardens in Sudan took place in the capital of the Central Region for the first time, we consider this incident a notable mark for the prisons of the region. And we are proud of the positive contributions we made to the working papers and deliberations of that conference.

"Regarding the inmates, we've given attention to questions of their rehabilitation and training so they can pursue occupations and professions that would allow them to lead honest lives after they serve their sentence. Therefore, we expanded the workshops, and we furnished them with modern equipment. We gave attention to teaching the inmates the Koran and making them memorize it. We set up mosques for them in prison in order to improve the spiritual aspects [of their characters]. We also expanded our illiteracy campaign as well as cultural and recreational activities for inmates. We also set aside some funds for the productive projects in which inmates take part.

"If the comprehensive political agenda did call for, among other things,

developing the contributions of prisons in the area of production, the region was prepared to respond to that appeal. We had proposed to the Conference of Prison Wardens a plan to set up an integrated economic institution, modeled after the economic institution for the military. [The conference] recommended that that plan be put into practice in the region on an experimental basis and that it be applied in the future to all other regions. We have begun preparing the studies for this institution which will have a major impact on developing and regulating production in prison. Production in prison will thus be released from the control of government offices by means of an independent board of directors that can take action with flexibility.

"Inmates will also have a share in this institution since they would be the moving force for its projects. In order for us to set up this institution on strong foundations, we are now turning [our attention] to the expansion of agricultural activity in prisons, particularly in the automated farming areas south of the Blue Nile. In addition, we are concentrating on existing projects in the region's three provinces. We also made preparations for the implementation of a number of vital projects. We mention for example, the al-Rabwah project for brick production, which can be developed further because of its unique location so as to produce vegetables and fruits. There are also poultry projects and fish farming projects. God willing, we will also establish an agricultural project on an area of 50 feddans in al-Rahd Project to produce vegetables and fruits. We also have an integrated study for implementing the sand and concrete project in the White Nile.

"As we approach the third term, we set up the general framework through which the program recommendation of relocating prisons outside cities will be implemented. Plans are now being made for similar prison camps that would enable the prison sector to make new contributions toward [confirming] its slogan of being a place for correction and rehabilitation. On the other hand, although we pointed out the humanitarian and legal status of the mentally ill at the Conference of Prison Wardens, our efforts [in that regard] generated a plan to establish a sanatorium outside the prison walls for the care of the mentally ill. Colleagues in the Ministry of Health and some generous citizens are cooperating with us on this project. Although we succeeded in getting the necessary lot and were just barely able to allocate for it enough government resources--the budget for this project is about 100,000 pounds--we wish to ask for assistance from all areas in implementing this project.

"I want to point out here that we are making preparations for holding a joint conference for regular forces in the region. The people's armed forces which are stationed in the region will take part in this conference. The political agency will cooperate on this conference to step up its role in serving the public by integrating capabilities and agencies."

Culture and the Media

Mr Sa'd 'Awad had this to say about culture and the media during the new presidential term: "If the president's call for cultural and media innovation assumed a profound dimension in the agenda that was proposed for the third term, we are proud of the fact that we in the Central region were the first to take action on this matter. From the 21st to the 24th of last March we set down a

three-part strategy--short, intermediate and long-term--for the direction of cultural and media activity in the region. This strategy is considered the first of its kind in Sudan; it attracted the attention of everyone in the region and the nation."

The Cultural Sector

"Let me say that we took all the observations that were made about the cultural sector into account. The basic problem, however, is the fact that the financial costs of culture are tremendous. If the central government were fully responsible for culture before regional government was instituted, the regional government was obliged to shift the [responsibility for culture] in a manner that would ensure good performance.

"With the resources that were available to us, we turned [our attention] to publication of AL-MULHAQ AL-THAQAFI [The Cultural Supplement] and MULHAQ AL-ZARQA' [Al-Zarqa' Supplement] as a step toward publishing an integrated cultural magazine.

"In talking about the theater I would say that financial appropriations for the al-Jazirah theater are meager. That is the reason for the shortcomings we have in theater performances. One of our most prominent plans is one to develop the al-Jazirah theater into a cultural complex. In this regard we turned over the maps and necessary funds for implementing the first phase of the project to the Public Works Administration. This phase of the project includes building a public library, a children's library and auditoriums for sculpture, music and folklore. It is hoped that the first phase will be completed next year.

"We are making plans now with the cooperation of the Institute for Political and Strategic Studies, the National Authority for Radio and Television and the Press Organization to hold a festival for cultural creativity in the region."

The Information Sector

On the basis of the declared course of information, performance in that area is considered satisfactory. The news concentrated on conveying what was taking place in executive channels, in the political agency and in the legislative institution. Information [services] tended to bring about closer ties between the public and the philosophy, programs, plans and projects of regional government. Emphasis was placed on the necessity of staying in step with the activities that are taking place in the regions: political, scientific and group conferences and visits by various delegations.

In the area of fact-finding attention was always geared to the public: observing their views and their efforts. One notices that this attention was focused on various kinds of public services questions. Investigative reports concentrated on the political and economic question and on formulating the opinions of experienced Sudanese in dealing with issues and solving problems in the institutes of production. Investigative reports were undertaken to record the data--both negative and positive--for the experience of regional government. For that purpose our work was as follows:

The News Bulletin

The purpose of the news bulletin was to be a nucleus for a regional newspaper. It is for this reason that we took the news bulletin out of the traditional framework. Our attempts to find the necessary funding are still going on.

Our efforts have also been tireless to develop and modernize communications and information relaying devices. We introduced a telex system in SUNA offices in Madani, and we tried to make the telecommunications system in the region operate in the news area besides relaying administrative and political information between the office of the prime minister and the capitals of provinces.

We also included in [our] new budget proposals appropriations that are required for purchasing special equipment in Sannar and al-Hasahisa. The new area of al-Rahd may also be linked to the system.

An agreement was reached with the National Corporation for Radio and Television to develop the rural broadcast studio so that it would become in the future an integrated provisional radio station for Umm Durman Radio. Until this project is completed, Madani and Umm Durman will be connected with a hot line to transmit some programs and local radio messages for broadcast on the general radio program.

To develop performance in al-Jazirah's rural television, an agreement was reached with the National Corporation. Maintenance of the Wad Madani station has actually begun, and equipment that would enable al-Jazirah Television to broadcast colored pictures has arrived. Installations for the new studio have also been completed. The corporation also received a German loan in the amount of 1.8 million dollars to furnish the studio.

Regarding the fact that television broadcasts do not reach al-Dawim and al-Qatinah, the National Corporation affirmed that the damage done to the main and provisional transmitters because of current fluctuations will be repaired this month. This will enable residents of al-Dawim to receive television broadcasts on Channel Five. In 3 months we expect the authority to have completed installation of the relay station for the area of Ma'tuq, thanks to French aid. As far as the city of al-Qatinah is concerned, work is being carried out expeditiously on installing the transmitting tower in Jabal Awliya'. This is being funded from the corporation's revenues and from contributions made by citizens. It is hoped that the tower will be completed this year.

Let me say that the installations for the colored photography unit have been fully completed, and it is only a little hard currency that is delaying the acquisition of the equipment we need for it.

None of this activity was accompanied by any increases in the wages of workers employed in this facility. I conclude my comments with an expression of thanks and appreciation for those gallant workers.

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AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL REGION OUTLINED

Khartoum AL-AYYAM in Arabic 19 May 83 p 9

[Article: "Minister of Agriculture in the Region Says There Are 35 Million Arable Feddans in the Central Region"]

[Text] Coordination between the regional and central ministries is essential for determining investment projects.

[The sum of] 750,000 [pounds is required] for the reclamation of forests in the region that were cut down.

Dr 'Uthman Khalifah, the region's minister of agriculture, food and natural resources spoke about the achievements of the plans and programs of his ministry. He spoke about the difficulties that impeded these programs and the new view for conserving natural resources in the region. He also spoke about encouraging investments in agriculture nationally or regionally in the Central Region.

The minister said, "There is no doubt that the Central Region is rich in natural resources. There are about 35 million arable feddans, and there are the two rivers, the Blue Nile and the White Nile. There are small rivers--al-Rahd and al-Dandar--and there is ground water which is waiting to be put to profitable use. Besides, the quantity of rainfall which is large may amount to 1,000 millimeters a year.

"These factors have collectively placed the region in a position of distinction compared to other regions. It thus won investments from all over the nation. The Central Region also has the lion's share of investments. There are more than 8 million feddans that are being put to profitable use under national investment projects that are irrigated [by man] or by rain. There are also more than 4 million feddans in the Central Region that were distributed as private sector investment projects. However, the general situation in the irrigated organizations, which are affiliated with the central government, has created many problems for us throughout the region. The region has no authority and cannot determine performance or set it on the right course in these national organizations. Since these organizations have an area of over 4 million feddans in the Central Region, all the workers and farmers rely totally on the region for all services: health, education and other services. This is in return for the fact that the yield from these projects, whether it is cotton or cottonseed production, is advantageous to the region. This is in addition to the yield earned by the farmer from the final individual accounting.

"All these reasons put us in a position of hoping--and I do not say asking--that we have in this region a leading role in setting performance on the right track so that wealth would prevail among citizens and farmers, in the region and in all of Sudan.

"We in the region encourage investments, and we support the provisions of the 1980 law that encourages investments. In our opinion, however, there are some drawbacks to this law. We set forth this matter in the course of numerous meetings with the fellow ministers of finance, agriculture and irrigation. We also presented this problem at the Fourth Conference for the Socialist Union of Sudan. We are pleased that the conference came out with a specific recommendation that the region play a role in encouraging and determining investments throughout the region or in Sudan as a whole. We hope that the provisions and articles of the law that encourages investments will provide the region with a leading role in this matter.

"We do not accept [the notion] that the central government approve projects and relay those approvals to the region. It is our opinion that the role for investment and investment requests must stem from the region first. An investor is to submit a request for a particular investment to the governor of the region or to the region's minister of agriculture. We would then study that request and ascertain that it is compatible with the regional plan in the context of the national plan for investments in agriculture. After that we would turn over this study to the governor because he is the one who knows all the problems that result from agricultural expansion, from cutting down forests and from conferring on others pastoral resources and other natural resources. Governors would study these matters with the councils of the districts in question. The [investment] request is to be submitted to the district council, and it is to be looked into so that the recommendation that is made would not conflict with the interests of nomad Bedouins; would not encroach on forests by having forest trees cut off; and would not limit the areas of villages, the havens of tribal units and the areas set apart for traditional farming by ordinary citizens. After that the district council would issue its recommendation, and that would be turned over to the general secretariat for its final endorsement.

"In our opinion this method will spare the district and the region many disputes [such as those] we are facing today between shepherds, citizens and nomad Bedouins. Therefore, we support the law that encourages investment, but we think that it would be more beneficial for Sudan to examine this matter carefully and to have new rules and controls that would give the region the role it is required to play in setting investment on the right track throughout the region. In our financial policy we began contacting international organizations for all of Sudan. This is because if we are not able to draw up an investment map for the Central Region, which is rich in natural resources, we will lose our way and we will make the same mistakes that we made when investments were made in the early days of local and national government. Land, agriculture and ground water experts are to draw a map identifying arable land in the region; land that is suitable for irrigation; crops and areas that would be suitable for rain irrigated land; and areas that are to be preserved as natural pasture land for animal resources, particularly since the region is rich in animal resources. This land must be determined by the district councils so that it may be designated for pasture and for the nomad Bedouins."

Forests

"The region and Sudan as a whole rely on forest revenues. Forest revenues in the region may be in excess of 2 million pounds. Therefore, it is essential that the forests we must take possession of and safeguard by law be designated so that investors won't seize them even if they had authorizations from the central government. If we were to do away with all the forests of the region, the region would be threatened with desert encroachment and defoliation, and we would face a major crisis [in the efforts to provide] fuel, furniture and support for the various districts from the products of these forests. Therefore, the policy that we are following now is that of not cutting down a single meter of forest unless we plant two meters first. We can thus reclaim the forests that were sorely damaged by major investment projects. This is because an investment project finds out where all the forests and lumber in the project area are located and does not leave a single meter of that forest behind. Therefore, the laws that will be enacted must determine a certain area that any investment project has to leave as a forest to protect the land from wind and defoliation and to serve as a resource for the animal cycle and as a source of revenues for citizens.

"Therefore, we are encouraging investments. This map that I mentioned will define the proper course for an urgent investment plan and for a long-term investment plan for the region. We cannot distribute all the land in the region in 1 or 5 years. We must be prudent and prepare a large area of land for future generations. We must also get our hands on pasture areas and forest areas so these can become sources of revenues for Sudan, for the region and for the districts."

Graduates of Colleges of Agriculture

The region's minister of agriculture had this to say about taking the graduates of colleges of agriculture into the various activities of his ministry and the possibility of giving them farm land so they would shift [their attention] from seeking government employment and employ their energies and scientific capabilities in farming and production.

"There are in the region qualified agricultural specialists in both areas of agricultural production: plant and animal. There are also qualified personnel in the area of agricultural services. There is a main office in the region, and there are major agricultural research stations which offer services in the areas of scientific research. Therefore, we consider the region a basic site where graduates can be utilized. This is a normal phenomenon because there are resources available in the region, and these are provided to workers in the area of agricultural and animal production and to graduates so they can produce and work. Many applications were submitted to us when we began forming the regional government. These applications were submitted by qualified personnel. Besides those we found in the various governorates, we recruited many graduates.

"A problem has emerged in recent years involving the first chapter of the budget in Sudan's constitution. We were therefore inclined to seek the assistance of graduates. We asked the district, on the one hand, to designate for us grade positions for the graduates and, on the other hand, to fill the shortage that some districts in the region continued to suffer from.

"We have apportioned all the graduates who are agricultural inspectors to the 20 districts. There is a shortage, however, in some districts such as (al-Karmak), Qaysan, Yabus, Tandalti and (al-Damazin). But we will end this shortage, as I mentioned, by finding work for [the graduates]. We are encouraging graduates to turn to production, and we are not asking them to go work in government offices as we did before. Instead, we are encouraging graduates by what we do: we approve small investment projects limited to 25 feddans. We designated scores of approved projects for new graduates in the Central Region. Most of these projects are in the district of al-Rahad. We are also pleased that some graduates of agricultural institutes, such as the Abu Hiraz and Abu Na'amah institutes have submitted applications for acquisition of automated agricultural projects. We are in the course of determining such projects for those graduates so they can make an effective contribution to the modernization of conventional agriculture throughout the region, particularly in the southern part."

Expanding the Process of Cutting down Forests

"There is a fact that must become known to everyone. There is a technical department in the chief forestry office in Khartoum which is charged with the task of determining the forests that must be cut this year, the following year and so on. This means that forests are cut down according to a central plan. In my opinion this is a normal policy, but it must be accompanied by actions to put the land from which the trees were cut to profitable use to provide revenues for the executive people's council which was accused of cutting down those trees.

"On the basis of the policy that was approved by the regional Council of Ministers and followed by the regional Ministry of Agriculture, we are now leaning towards cultivating these forests whose trees were being cut during the past 10 years. We saved the necessary funds, and we allocated more than three fourths of a million pounds to reclaim these forests. We began planting the acacia nilotica forests particularly in the Blue Nile [Province]. We planted very large areas in the provinces of al-Jazirah and the Blue Nile, particularly in the areas of irrigated projects such as the Blue Nile and White Nile Organizations and at the sugar farms and refineries. In Kinanah and ('Aslayah) we began planting camphor trees, because in 4 or 5 years these trees will yield a return equal to 2,000 pounds per feddan. If we plant more pine trees in the land that was appropriated from al-Jazirah Project or from the irrigated organizations, we will be able to provide considerable revenues and returns for the region and for residents of the various districts. There is also a policy that we are following in the region: we will not cut 1 meter of any forest until we plant 2 meters. With this equation we will be able to restore the splendor and the vegetation to some districts in a few years. These trees had been cut down either arbitrarily or for major investment projects authorized by the region.

"The governor will also make it legal for us to appropriate from any investment project, beginning with a 25 feddan orchard to an authorized project of 100,000 feddans, a part of that land so that a certain percentage of the land be planted with forest trees. We will begin putting this program into effect next season, God willing, even for small orchards.

"We laid down a plan in the 1983-1984 budget, and it was approved by the regional People's Assembly. We set aside about 700,000 feddans of forests in the Blue Nile Province."

ROLE OF EDUCATION IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS DISCUSSED

Khartoum AL-AYYAM in Arabic 19 May 83 pp 6, 7

[Interview with Mr 'Abd-al-Rahim Mahmud, Governor of the Central Region by Karam Allah al-Siddiq, Faysal Mahmud and 'Abd-al-Halim Sirr al-Khitm: "Governor of the Central Region Says 30,000 Pounds Needed To Support College of Science and Technology in al-Jazirah University"]

[Text] The time has come for the regional government to oversee automated agricultural projects in the region. We are committed to carrying out the provisions of the comprehensive political agenda for the third term.

In the context of the celebrations held in the country for the 14th anniversary of the glorious May Revolution and the people's universal joy that the leader Numayri was serving a third term as president of the republic, AL-AYYAM conducted this comprehensive interview with Mr 'Abd-al-Rahim Mahmud, governor of the Central Region. This interview was part of a program designed by the Celebrations Committee to evaluate the autonomy experiment. The purpose of the interview was to find out the truth about the experiment by reviewing the experiment and its course as well as its pros and cons. We would thus be able to evaluate its success or failure properly as well as the means for strengthening it or treating its shortcomings.

The College of Science and Technology

[Question] You initiated the efforts to support the College of Science and Technology. Your excellency affirmed that this contribution was in keeping with one of the tendencies of the comprehensive political agenda. You said that your support for this tendency would attract more scientific personnel into the regional government's movement to highlight performance. Your excellency, would you please tell us if there are specific programs for attracting scientists and upgrading their roles in regional development? What are the results of your efforts so far in supporting the college?

[Answer] It is a fact that one of the main components of any development action is the existence of other scientists, technicians and workers. We all know that the objective of regional government is that of developing the region. The human, material and natural components for such development must be available. One of

the most important requirements in human resources is that we get those scientists and technicians who can plan, program and carry out our development programs. In previous work carried out during the present period in al-Jazirah Province and in the Central Region, we used to seek the assistance of fellow scientists in their areas of specialization. This region is full of scientists who specialize in all the areas of knowledge. There are scientists, for example, in the Agricultural Research Authority, in the Ministry of Irrigation, in the al-Jazirah Project, etc. We are always involving those fellow scientists in numerous committees that study certain development projects or in committees that study and evaluate previous projects. I recall that we held a scientific conference 3 years ago pertaining to agricultural production in al-Jazirah Project. Scientists participated in it. The availability of technical personnel and specialists is an essential and important matter for the development of the region.

We said there was a close and cooperative relationship between them and us. After al-Jazirah University was founded, fellow professors were contacted. Chief among them was Professor Muhammad al-'Abid al-Mubarak, director of the university. The professors were all willing to conduct specialized studies and to help us in the projects we were carrying out to develop the region.

It is on this basis that we are adopting with the professors the problems that al-Jazirah University is facing. I formed a financial committee to support al-Jazirah University. This committee began by building a dormitory on campus for female students; it was named after the late al-Khawad. We also began implementing other projects of interest to students and professors so they can pursue their various activities. As I mentioned, one of the principal things that also made our cooperation a close one is the fact that this young university needs some moral and material support so it can complete its installations and equipment. This would help it carry out its scientific functions and train technicians and workers in the various fields. We cite the example of the College of Science and Technology. It is a unique college. One of its objectives is to graduate and train technicians [who would work] in the various areas of the sugar, textile and food industries. To do this the university needs equipment, laboratories, machines, workshops and models of the industries that can be found in the region. For many reasons which may not be printed here, the university did not have this in the past. It is on the basis of the strong faith we have that this university is operating for the interests of society and is committed to that interest that we cooperated with the university professors and formed a committee that I am chairing. Then subcommittees were formed such as the recruitment committee and the finance committee. We have colleagues from Khartoum who are members of that committee. Chief among them is 'Ali Muhammad Shamu and some leading figures. We met several times in Khartoum and Madani, and we found the colleagues we contacted to be extraordinarily responsive, particularly those in the Alliance of Industrialists. Chief among them were Fath al-Rahman al-Bashir and Taha al-Rubi.

Those who supported this committee and this college with models for the textile industry, for battery [electrical] engineering as well as funding--and also our colleagues in the military establishment--donated to us a bus for the transportation of students. We are still continuing our contacts with our fellow capitalists and with the Association of Employees, and we are hoping to receive financial support

from these organizations. So far we have been able to raise over 300,000 pounds in that short period of time to implement urgent projects. We also found our colleagues in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning to be responsive. They agreed they would support this college and appropriate a major part of this college's requirements in technical protocol programs with friendly and fraternal countries. We will soon be able to make a full evaluation of this action.

Those fellow scientists are also taking part in the Popular Development Committee, in the Council for Economic Planning and in the Socialist Union's Secretariat for Economic Affairs. Most recently I received a letter from the president of the National Research Council in which he asked that regional research committees be formed. He asked that we select for these committees people who can develop research activity and coordinate the research that is done in the region with the research that is done centrally. One of the objectives of these committees is to help the region with the ideas and projects that are submitted to it. The committee would consider these projects and ideas and study them in a scientific fashion. This matter will be presented to the Council of Ministers at its next meeting. God willing, we will be the first committee for regional research. Ultimately, we depend greatly on those scientists we have in the region for research and studies and for the development and growth of the region.

Agricultural Land

[Question] Acquisition of farm land and the practices that follow from such acquisition have aroused much controversy regarding the method by which land is distributed and not utilized. How would your excellency comment on this problem?

[Answer] The fact of the matter is that the projects that have been approved are divided into two parts. One part consists of small projects that are between 5 and 6 inches [sic]. These projects are approved locally. Then there are major projects which are approved centrally. These projects have an area of about 10,000 feddans. This pertains to irrigated farming. There are also projects that are centrally approved; these involve automated farming and rain irrigation. The fact is that regarding locally and centrally approved projects there was some faltering [in implementation]. Citizens did not abide by contract clauses because they believed that farming costs were on the increase and that trained workers for these projects could not be found. At the same time we will take some measures [regarding this matter]. The minister of agriculture in the region formed inspection and surveying committees for all the projects that have been approved. We can thus cultivate in every project that has been approved the crops that were provided for in the conditions for approval. A large number of citizens have begun making investments in these projects. I believe that if an individual cannot make a technical and financial investment, he must not be given a project.

There is in fact considerable faltering in the major projects that were approved centrally. There is some lack of objectivity in the magnitude of the projects that were approved.

We are now in the process of reviewing and cancelling these permits. We were empowered by the minister of finance and economic planning, who is responsible for investment, to cancel any central or regional permits whose owners did not put them to profitable use. We are in the process of conducting this review.

Regarding new approvals an agreement was also reached with the minister of agriculture and irrigation, with the regional minister of agriculture and with the Investment Secretariat on certain procedures. No major investment project was to be approved without the knowledge and preliminary approval of the region so there would be no problems regarding some citizens.

What I mentioned about implementation of these projects faltering is a fact. We are in the process of taking measures in that regard, and we are cultivating all the projects whose proprietors did not put them to profitable use.

Alcoa Project for Agricultural Production

[Question] The [question of the] profitable utilization of land leads us to a secondary question. When you visited the White Nile Province for agricultural reasons, you announced the establishment of the Alcoa Company for Agricultural Production to make use of the region's parched land. What has been done in this matter?

[Answer] It is true that the purpose of the recent visit to the White Nile was to review our agricultural projects. We also visited the White Nile Province to think with the residents and consult with them about new projects. When we visited the eastern bank, we knew that the northeastern part of the White Nile, from south Alcoa to Jabal Awliya' were parts of the province that were not being put to profitable use. This area is called the parched area. I believe that the main reason why this area is not utilized is due to the absence of infrastructures, such as roads, energy, water, etc. Thank God, however, now that the Jabal Awliya'-al-Dawim Road and the al-Dawim-Rabak Road have been built, I think that many of the difficulties have been eliminated. This will encourage investors in this area because the soil is fertile and water resources are reasonable. Therefore, when we met with area residents, we proposed to them the objectives of popular development, which we are in the process of bringing about. We agreed with them on an agricultural project called the Alcoa Project for Agricultural Production. We formed a committee of citizens, officials in the Ministry of Agriculture and in the Ministry of Irrigation and some colleagues in Khartoum who are familiar with the area and have some direct social ties to it. This committee has been formed, and it is now considering how this project is to be established. We hope, God willing, that implementation of the first steps of the economic and technical study for this project will begin next year.

Project Supervision

[Question] You spoke on numerous occasions, your excellency, about the poor central supervision of some agricultural organizations such as the White Nile Organization, al-Suki and some other organizations such as grain mills. What ideas do you have, your excellency, for solving the problems of these organizations? What are the results of your communications with the central agencies?

[Answer] It is true that these national agricultural projects--those that are irrigated and those that get their water from rainfall--have numerous problems that have to do with performance problems. There are also problems that have to do with the fact that the components of production in both kinds of projects are not available.

I think that central supervision was easy in the past because these projects were small and the difficulties were not so considerable. It was those difficulties that caused production in these irrigated projects to decline. The most important of those difficulties was the fact that machinery, spare parts and necessary funding for these endeavors were not available. The laws and measures on which these projects are based did not stay in step with the methods for treating these problems that we are facing. What we are saying is that as long as these projects are in the region and as long as farmers from the region are working on them, we believe that it is the regional government that has to play a direct part in dealing with the problems of these projects. This is because we are closer to the citizens than the central government is. We are also closer to officials who are working on these projects. I believe we can interact with them in treating many of these problems. As we know, one of the objectives of regional government is development. [Another one] of its objectives is to be close to citizens, to know what their needs are and to help them [overcome] everything that impedes their development.

We are a region that functions in the context of a national policy. When we talk about having a role in these projects, that role is one that is in the context of the national policy.

The regional policy follows that of the central government, whether that policy has to do with agriculture, industry, etc.

The region does not function apart from the central government; we are part of a whole, and we work in the context of a national policy. In the past these projects were joint ventures between the government, the administration and farmers. Now, however, the situation is different. If revenues are due to the government, we can collect them and forward them since there is no fear of the regional government taking over national projects if we were to supervise them. I believe that these are sensitive matters that have been put to rest and have not left behind any negative effects. Quite the contrary, our direct supervision of these projects would have many positive effects. We find that management of these projects is very cooperative and helpful.

I would say that the time has come for national projects that are rain-irrigated--and they are called automated agricultural projects--to be subordinate to the regions. It is not possible to have planned projects belonging to the organization, planned projects that belong to citizens and unplanned projects that belong to the region. Quite frankly let me affirm that there are problems; there is chaos and there are difficulties that led to many problems and that are aggravating these problems, particularly those between farmers and shepherds and us as a region preserving its soil and its forests and so on. These problems led to the desertification of the region, a process that is progressing at a fast pace. I believe that we in the region or in other regions will not have numerous authorities carrying out duties in one area. There would be a kind of conflict here that could create problems. If we wanted to evaluate this task of rain-irrigated farming and determine the rain-irrigated areas, all these farms must be planned and not [left without plans] as is the case now. All this land must be overseen by one administration that knows what is what so it can stop this greed that is manifested by some citizens who are now acting freely in this space and causing many problems in roads and water. Shots have even been fired.

We have a plan and we have programs for modifying the former methods. We also have controls for the farmers who work on these projects.

The Comprehensive Political Agenda

[Question] It has been noticed, your excellency, that implementation of the comprehensive political agenda requires political and executive leaders to have a new kind of ideas and concepts. This agenda also requires some kind of change in the performance of these [executive] agencies and the way they do business. How would your excellency comment in this regard, on the one hand, regarding the Central Region, and on the other hand, regarding the relationship of the region with the central government?

[Answer] This agenda has become an organizational agenda. All officials in the regional and central governments as well as the president of the republic are committed to its implementation during the third term [of the president]. As has been mentioned, this agenda is the product of discussions and studies that were carried out over a long period of time. Its purpose is to deal with agricultural and industrial problems, and so on. The purpose of the agenda also is to make progress in the development of Sudan and in the achievement of prosperity for its people. We've also had a 3-year program that was the product of ideas that were discussed on different levels in the conferences of Sudan's Socialist Union. As I mentioned, these ideas were studied and formulated as projects that were presented at the Second Regional Conference of the Socialist Union. They were also discussed by the regional committee and by specialized committees. All these have become recommendations and resolutions that are binding for us as a regional government. All these projects and recommendations are seen by us, thank God, in the context of the comprehensive political agenda for the third term. As you mentioned this agenda requires a certain quality of ideas and performance.

In my judgment it also requires commitment and faith in carrying it out.

The Youth Sector

[Question] Your excellency declared on more than one occasion your interest in the youth sector and in offering support for it since it is the effective means by which the revolution's programs can become concrete reality. How does your excellency see the course of action in this respect, especially when you know that the budget that was allocated for the youth sector has been greatly diminished?

[Answer] As you mentioned, we do in fact think that the youth sector is a very important sector. It is said that young people make up half the present and all the future. Young people are the generation we groom and train to assume responsibilities in the future. Within the limits of our resources we must provide young people with some of the components that would make them qualified to assume [those] responsibilities in the future. It is true that young people in the past did not receive the required attention, and this was a result of the fact that people and institutions had different ideas about young people. It was also because of a dearth of resources. But this must not be the case [any longer], if we all believe in the slogan that young people make up half of the past and all of the future. I think that standards are good as far as knowledge

is concerned. The basic problem is to cultivate a sense of responsibility among young people.

We did not provide the resources that are necessary for training young people and making them aware of the objectives and the heritage of their country. That too requires a plan. As I mentioned we have a program, and our plan is one that comes in the context of the national agenda. It requires that we provide over the next 3 years committed and competent people from different disciplines. We must try to provide good quality executives, and we must also review and hold joint meetings. People must participate directly so we can improve and master [our] performance. In my judgment the proper method or proper control [that is required to ensure] an honorable performance lies in participatory practices and in consultations between the executive agency and the popular agency. These consultations would be carried out by their various institutions. They are to consult with each other on political, executive, popular or legislative matters. This integration of the various agencies that approved the entire program is essential during the implementation stage. If this method of action is cultivated and maintained, I believe we can get good and appropriate performance because such consultations, participatory practices and thinking together turns fellow executives into controllers and accountants and makes us, the political, executive and legislative agencies, aware of everything that is taking place so we can set forth the ideal solution [to any problem].

We are now making plans and drawing up programs to improve conditions for young people and for young people's activities. The problem is not only one of providing resources; the problem is one of defining the course and method we use to create those leaders who will assume the responsibility for this homeland in the future. We are now dealing directly with the alliances of students in universities and institutes of higher learning. As long as these alliances are the starting point for cooperation and assistance from the regional government; as long as they are proceeding with realizing service and development programs in the region; and as long as they are set to act responsibly, I believe that it is our responsibility as officials and citizens to respond to them and to offer them moral support. We are to join them in drawing up the programs that would benefit various aspects and activities in society. If we do not help them and cooperate with them, we will cause them to become frustrated.

We want them to have a sense of national responsibility that would make them feel they are an integral part of this nation working to serve their society.

It is for this reason that we offer them support and assistance and make them participate in our programs. We are now at the beginning of this road, trying to find our way to draw up a program for the coming years so we can provide the personnel and the financial resources for such action.

We now have an office in the government that is devoted to students, to students' associations and to young people. In the regional secretariat there is a secretariat for political affairs and organizations which is responsible for group and popular organizations and for specific tasks in the youth and women's sectors.

Financial Performance in the Region

[Question] In the past period financial performance in the region was largely based on imposing new fees on goods, particularly sugar. This was hard on citizens at a time when returns from numerous projects were supposed to be coming in. These projects had been implemented to strengthen the financial aspect of the region and create new resources in district councils. What does your excellency have to say about that?

[Answer] Actually the purpose of what we did in the past 2 years was not to provide new resources for the region. Aside from the matter of establishing regional government and local popular government, the basic purpose of what we did in the past 2 years was to concentrate on existing services, to remedy some problems and to support existing services with some resources.

We did that in addition to development projects [we undertook] whose purpose was not to achieve additional resources for the region, but rather to realize the needs of citizens such as agricultural production, drinking water, educational and health services, etc.

Because we know that our own resources are meager, the region's minister of finance and the economy formed a committee of specialists. This is one of the areas in which we benefited from scientists. The chairman of that committee was the dean of the College of Economics and Social Sciences in al-Jazirah University. The committee submitted a good report which we reviewed in the Council of Ministers. The report was approved by the council and then sent to the districts. This report explains quite clearly the region's meager resources and suggests that these resources be developed, either by finding new sources of revenue or by reconsidering old sources of revenue and raising rates. This meant, for example, raising the rent paid on land, fees on pregnant herds of cattle, general revenues, etc. These rates have been in effect since the thirties and forties, and since these rates are set by an order from the central government, we were not able during the past 2 years to modify those rates until we were authorized to do so by the president. Regional governments were to have the responsibility of setting the rates they thought were necessary. Therefore, we sent all this to the districts--the study, the authorization and our comments--because these rates are basically the main revenues for the districts. On the one hand, we now have a mandate to reconsider these rates or to find other sources of funding. On the other hand, we had essential programs that have priority according to the urgent problems we found when we toured the region. There is in particular the matter of parched land. Therefore, our only thought was to find a quick way to provide funds other than [that of imposing a fee on] sugar. Let me tell you, for example, that in the region of Darfur I imposed a 10 pound fee on a sack of sugar to find a quick source for treating the urgent problem. I think we will continue to collect this fee in the new budget because it is the only way we have to raise money. Our estimated revenues from sugar in the estimated budget for 1982-1983 were about 7.5 million [pounds]. But it may be said that there are some flaws here and that these are manifested in a lack of coordination between the district and the region in setting a certain rate. There are also some districts that add exaggerated rates for shipping and other expenses.

As a result of our speedy consideration [of this matter] we will propose in the

1983-1984 budget, God willing--and as I mentioned to you our projects so far have not realized additional revenues--that if we wish to add fees on sugar that the rates be uniform and that a certain portion of these rates be designated for the district and the rest for the government. No district would have the right to add other additional fees to sugar. We do this to develop our own resources so we can meet the cost of services.

We will conduct a study on shipping. We will agree with organizations on certain shipping rates. We are now spending more than 12 million pounds for schools, prisons and hospitals. We will reconsider these expenditures. These costs must be shared. For example, a student who is not a boarder pays more than 3 pounds in daily expenses. The student who is a boarder must share in the cost. We are now proclaiming the slogan of self control, self-reliance and self-confidence.

The Ministry of Construction and Housing

[Question] Now that the minister of construction in the region has been relieved of his duties and you've assumed the responsibilities for this ministry, do you expect there will be a change in the policy of this ministry? How do you see the performance of the ministry in general in the coming period?

[Answer] I believe that this question was raised because we did not appoint another minister. But the reason for that is not the possibility of change in the ministry's policy. Ministers are committed to the policy of the regional government. After the public policy is approved by our political agencies, we agree in the Council of Ministers on a program for each ministry. Each minister commits himself to carry out this program in light of the regional policy and the national policy. But the main reason why I am assuming the responsibilities of this ministry is due to the performance of this ministry and to the fact that its problems and responsibilities, such as water, housing and the fact that it maintains numerous establishments, are numerous. I chose to work in this ministry for 1 month or a little more to end problems, carry out the programs that are pending and turn them over to the new minister so he can begin where we left off.

Al-Jazirah Bakeries

[Question] There is talk about the fact that the Alliance of Bakers did not pay its share in al-Jazirah Bakeries Company. What did you do about that? Is it true that these bakeries are now operating at a loss? If they are, why is this happening at a time when private bakeries are making ample profits?

[Answer] It is true that proprietors of bakeries did not pay off the balance due on their shares. The reason for this is that the fourth partner withdrew. They are the expatriate brothers because they did not meet their obligations with us. We have, therefore, redistributed the shares among ourselves: we in the regional government and in the savings bank and our fellows in the Alliance of Bakers. This redistribution increased the financial burdens.

As founders [of the company] we held several meetings, and at the advice of our legal counsel we wrote to them in accordance with the stipulations of the law for companies and in accordance with the stipulations of the bylaws of al-Jazirah Bakeries Company. They answered that they would meet their obligations in

accordance with the proposals that were made. A meeting has been proposed so that a final decision can be made regarding the shareholders of the bakeries. Many of them will ask for more shares and will pay for them. As far as the loss is concerned, that loss is not really a loss in the sense people understand a loss. The company has four bakeries. Two of them are operational. However, when we calculate our consumption, we calculate the total cost. It is this that makes our expenses exceed our revenues. The other reason [why expenses exceed revenues] is that we are in the process of training workers. Costs are also high because we use imported flour. A sack of [imported] flour costs 28 pounds; this is 7 or 8 pounds more than local flour. At the same time we sell [bread] at the price for which those who use local flour sell their bread. All these are reasons for the loss, but it is not a loss in the sense that people construe that term.

At this time we are having repeated meetings. At an upcoming meeting the other two bakeries will be distributed. We have requests from the Abu Haraz College for Natural Resources and from al-Musallamiyah. We will also find out what our needs are. We also have other requests in Sannar and Kusti. In the coming months, God willing, these bakeries will realize profits. There is no doubt that our objective is to solve a problem and resolve a hardship [that emerges] particularly when the bakeries strike. We want to offer work that is profitable for us. We will continue to offer this service to citizens because the matter of bread is a matter of life or death. We and our colleagues, the director of the company and the founding colleagues, will work; we will review; and we will achieve a formula that will realize the objectives of the company.

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CSO: 4504/398

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSES RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN BAHR AL-GHAZAL

Khartoum AL-AYYAM in Arabic 4 Apr 83 p 9

[Article by Salvatore Deng: "Commissioner of Bahr al-Ghazal Province Tells AL-AYYAM, 'Educated People To Strengthen Unity; Boarding Schools Essential so That Villages of Bahr al-Ghazal May Be Integrated' "]

[Text] Bahr al-Ghazal [Province] has been mentioned recently in the international and local press. It was chosen by Libya's colonel as the starting point for his criminal, destructive plot. He was taking advantage of the fact that Bahr al-Ghazal is a province the size of a country and that it has common borders with numerous African countries [sic]. This made Bahr al-Ghazal constitute an oasis of stability attracting all the neighbors despite the fact that it is surrounded by a lot of water from each side [sic].

Maj Gen Alfred Deng Alwok declares that his province still enjoys peace and stability in the aftermath of the criminal events that were exported by the insane colonel who took advantage of the weak-spirited acting under the command of the client, Ya'qub Isma'il.

His excellency declares that security forces are in full control of every inch of the province and that citizens are always on the alert to foil any base plan targeting their peace, their safety, their unity and their honor.

Retired Maj Gen Alfred Deng is one of the symbols, keepers and guardians of nationalism. He is appreciated and revered by all tribes. He integrates the various religious sects, and all intellectual and ideological tendencies come together under his patronage, bringing about actions that benefit the people of Bahr al-Ghazal.

It may be said that some self-evident facts become evident in talking about Maj Gen Deng who is a model of righteousness, integrity and honesty. He never gave up the hobby that became ingrained in him in the southern region; we mean raising cattle. This is because this hobby is the principal means by which he increases his income which is not compatible with the Hatim-like generosity he shows to his guests.

One of the most notable characteristics of Maj Gen Alfred is his orientation toward education. He regards educated people, who can bring about and grasp change, the primary component of development.

Accordingly, his excellency devotes all the time to solve the problems of knowledge and education.

His excellency says, "We reached an agreement with church authorities in the province. This agreement provides that the church turn over [to us] the buildings of a number of missionary schools, which the church had built in the province, so that more children can be accommodated for academic education in these schools."

His excellency affirmed that the regional government's attention to the problem of education was practical and fruitful. He said that the Camboni Higher Secondary School and the public school will be inaugurated next fall in the city of Waw.

He added that U.S. AID had approved the construction of five elementary schools in the rural area of Uwayl. He said that the Kuwaiti Islamic Solidarity Organization had also promised funding for the purchase of textbooks for these schools and had promised [to fund] the establishment of a large workshop in the city of Uwayl to produce and maintain all tools needed for the schools. This workshop would be tantamount to a specialized institution where all the province's craftsmen would be employed. It would sharpen their skills and develop their abilities in lathing, tinsmithing and in other light industries that are used in daily life.

Mr Alfred says, "We do not favor the decentralization of elementary education. We also insist on the boarding school system. This is because the villages of the province are scattered and separated from each other by great distances. None of these village can provide the necessary number of students per class.

"Accordingly, you find us promoting [the notion of] boarding schools because they are made up of the total number of students in all the villages. It is certain that the fact that students live together puts an end to many of the hard feelings and establishes a tie of friendship between them, thus increasing their unity and their solidarity."

His excellency said, "We support the principle of integrating the villages despite its exorbitant cost. However, we have to prepare for that by convincing the villagers of the benefits of such integration. I do not believe that such an action would fail because the people of Bahr al-Ghazal are sociable by nature. Evidence for this lies in the success of their experiment in cooperation. This was a trailblazing experiment conducted by the authorities of the province despite the scarcity in their province of personnel in cooperative organizations."

His excellency expressed his hope for more fruitful cooperative work that would serve ordinary citizens and satisfy their needs as consumers.

His excellency appealed to officials of the National Alliance of Cooperatives to support the cooperative movement in the province and to expand the awareness and the prospects of those working in the cooperative field so they can carry out their mission in the best possible way.

Responding to a question about the move of the Commercial Shipping Center from Bahr al-Ghazal to Eastern Equatoria, Mr Alfred said, "In one sentence: the roads

are responsible for this move. To explain that let me say that Bahr al-Ghazal was linked with its neighbors by a system of roads suitable for traffic the year round. Prevailing administrative practice provided that the authorities maintain and repair the roads on a seasonal basis, but this practice disappeared and became forgotten, and road conditions worsened.

"In the absence of the forementioned administrative practice, we tried to create an alternative, and we made an agreement with U.S. AID. It turned out that the articles of this agreement had to be reconsidered to bring them in line with the rate of exchange for the Sudanese pound. Consequently, the agreement is presently inoperative.

"And even before all that, all the machinery and equipment that were being operated in planning and repairing the roads are now lying idle on the side of the road because the province is unable to get the necessary spare parts for this machinery and equipment, particularly since they were originally imported."

8592

CSO: 4504/398

GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR ACQUISITION OF WORK PERMITS DETAILED

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 May 83 p 5

/Article: 'Details of the Employment Guide for 1983'/'

/Text/ The Employment Department of the Ministry of Labor has issued the employment guide for 1983.

The guide describes the tasks of the Labor Department and the employment offices, means for obtaining work permits, and occupations in which foreigners are not permitted to work.

The guide also describes the general conditions for bringing in foreign workers and the instructions bearing on the employment of foreign agricultural workers.

The guide also contains a form for the registration of job seekers and instructions bearing on people on contract to work in Saudi Arabia.

The guide states that the Ministry of Labor, embodied in the Employment Department and the offices subordinate to it in the various governorates and districts of the kingdom, will seek to regulate the employment of Jordanian manpower domestically and abroad, and non-Jordanian workers domestically, gather and prepare statistical data related to the Jordanian labor market, analyze it, and simplify it for the entities concerned.

This guide has the goal of familiarizing people with the Employment Department and the tasks it carries out, in the following manner:

The Employment Department

The department performs the following tasks in the main center:

Participating in drawing up employment policy; working to develop it and plan for it in a manner that is in keeping with the interests of the Jordanian job market and the domestic economy; setting out recommendations related to the solution of employment problems; presenting appropriate recommendations to the responsible bodies; supervising the activities of the employment offices subordinate to it; studying applications presented by employers to bring in foreign (non-Arab) workers; carrying out the necessary measures preparatory to their presentation

to the committee on importation of workers; gathering and preparing monthly and annual statistics received from various employment offices; studying applications to publish advertisements on job opportunities available outside Jordan; studying reports received from labor counsellors in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar; and making field trips to organizations which employ non-Jordanian workers.

Tasks of the Employment Offices

The employment offices assume the following tasks:

Helping employers obtain Jordanian manpower and gathering information related to available job opportunities with them.

Registering Jordanian workers of various occupations, who are looking for work and directing them to the organizations in which appropriate job opportunities are available to them.

Giving out work permits to non-Jordanian workers.

Supplying the Employment Department with all statistical information related to the employment of Jordanians and foreigners as well as Jordanian workers leaving to work abroad, their occupations, their wages, and all other information related to the Jordanian labor market.

The Amman Employment Office will, in addition to the foregoing, supervise the travel of Jordanian workers to work in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, offering them the services needed to obtain work visas.

Bringing in Foreign Workers

This task is restricted to the Employment Department in the ministry, since all foreign non-Arab workers (and Sudanese and Palestinian workers) must obtain prior agreement from the Ministry of Labor before coming into the kingdom.

Applications bearing on the importation of non-Jordanian workers by employers will be submitted on a special form in the department. This form consists of a study of the volume of employment in the organization; it contains the number of Jordanian and non-Jordanian workers, technicians and non-technicians, and the wage level of each group. Organizations which present applications of this sort will be subject to field visits carried out by the employment inspector, who will investigate the projects of the organizations and the volume of the work in them to confirm that they actually need these workers. In addition, the absence of Jordanians registered (as people seeking work) with the employment departments concerned will be reaffirmed and the organizations concerned will be requested to advertise in local newspapers for the number of workers required, their occupations, and the conditions of their employment, on condition that these workers visit the employment offices situated in the area of activity of the companies or organizations seeking to bring the foreigners in.

In general, the department, by application from the organization wishing to bring in foreign workers, will effect coordination with the vocational training organization to train Jordanians in the desired areas.

Employers are permitted to bring foreign workers in in accordance with specific conditions and bases, including:

The grant of priority in the acquisition of available job opportunities to Jordanian workers, then Arab workers.

The fact that the number of Jordanian workers in the industrial and productive sectors will be not less than 50 percent of the total workers and 40 percent in the construction sector.

With the goal of regulating the importation of foreign workers, his excellency the minister of labor has decided to form a special committee to which applications to import workers will be submitted, so that they can be studied from all angles and the appropriate decision taken.

It will be formed under the chairmanship of the minister of labor, and the deputy minister, the director of the Employment Department, the director of the department of the labor offices, the director of the Amman Employment Department, and the committee secretary will take part in it.

Conditions for Obtaining Labor Permits

A. With respect to Arab workers:

First, Arab workers who have travel documents, except for Sudanese and Palestinian workers, may enter Jordan and seek appropriate job opportunities without having to obtain permission in advance from the Ministry of Labor and other official bodies.

Second, it will be confirmed that there are no alternative Jordanian workers who can perform the same job the Arab workers will be performing.

Third, applications to obtain work permits will be accepted from the employer, the job, or the delegated representative of the company.

The required documents are:

A labor contract signed by the employer and the worker, stating the occupation, the wage, the period of the contract, the passport, a personal photograph, an occupational permit or company registration certificate, a certificate of proof of ownership or rental, and all other official documents issued by the Ministry of Agriculture or its offices, in the case of agricultural workers.

B. With respect to foreign (non-Arab) workers:

Acquisition of prior permission from the Ministries of Labor and the Interior, before the workers come to Jordan, the prior approval of the Engineers' Union in

the case of foreign doctors. Otherwise, applications for work permits will not be reviewed.

The documents required are the same as those required of Arab workers.

General Rules

It is absolutely not permitted for any non-Jordanian worker to work in any sector until receiving a work permit from the Ministry of Labor.

The passports of non-Jordanian workers will be stamped at border centers with the statement that they will be prohibited from working except by permit from the Ministry of Labor.

Non-Jordanian workers will be permitted to change their place of work from one organization to another on condition that they receive a clearance from the first employer after they have worked for him for a period of no less than 6 months. In this case, it will be ensured that the employer has not granted clearances in repeated form which might indicate the possibility that he is working as an intermediary in employing workers.

Non-Jordanian workers who have completed their contract in one organization will be permitted to move to another organization without a clearance from the first employer.

Foreign (non-Arab) farmers will not be permitted to transfer from the agricultural sector to work in other sectors.

Foreigners (male and female) working in homes, and people of their description, will not be permitted to transfer from this area to work in other sectors.

No application to employ a foreigner who is in the country will be reviewed, and his entry must be approved in advance.

Occupations in Which Foreigners Are Absolutely Not Permitted To Work

Administrative jobs, secretarial jobs, accounting work, and all other jobs or occupations which Jordanian jobseekers registered with the employment offices can perform, in application of the principle of priority.

Conditions Bearing on Bringing in Foreign Workers

Acquisition of advance permission to import workers from the Ministry of Labor, before the foreign workers come to the country with the objective of working, in accordance with the conditions the ministry sets out.

Acquisition of a work permit from the competent employment office before non-Jordanian workers (Arab and foreign) are employed, in accordance with the requisite conditions.

3. It will be confirmed that the passport is valid for a period of no less than 5 months.

4. A medical report will be provided by any doctor approved by the Ministry of Health or the Department of Health, stipulating the following:

"In examining the person mentioned above, I found him to be free of contagious, epidemic or chronic diseases, pulmonary diseases or cancer, and to have the full ability to work."

5. Good conduct in actuality.

6. A work contract signed by the two parties (the first party being the Saudi organization or company, the second party the worker).

7. The occupation which is stated in the passport must correspond totally with the occupation in the visa.

8. In the event the occupation in the visa does not correspond, you must do the following:

A. Present a general passport.

B. Or include a certificate of expertise from the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

9. Confirmation of the signature on the small form and the large form in the area provided.

10. Confirmation of the receipt of the visa before presentation of the transaction to the Amman Employment Office.

11. Following confirmation of the receipt of the visa, you must include the number and date of the visa on the form.

12. Confirmation of acquisition of the receipt following delivery of the transaction, and delivery of the receipt following payment of the levies and receipt of the passport.

13. The transaction will be received and handed over only by the person involved in it.

14. Confirmation that no other contract has been signed with the first party following arrival in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, unless that is in your own personal interest.

15. If the visa is submitted in your name personally, you must include the following:

A passport, a certificate of freedom from diseases, the number and date of the visa, and attention to the foregoing.

16. If you are academically qualified, you must include a copy of the academic qualification.

17. The age permitted by the Saudi Consulate is 25 in the case of males and 28 in the case of females. If there are exceptions to that, you must present an application to the Saudi Consulate in Amman.

18. The date for receiving the passport will be 1 week from the date of submission of the application, with provision for official days off.

11887

CSO: 4404/405

DIRECTOR OF KUWAITI DEVELOPMENT FUND INTERVIEWED

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 168, 30 Apr-6 May 83 pp 43, 45

[Interview with Faysal Al-Khalid by Wahib Muhammad Ghurab: "The Kuwaiti Development Fund Aids 60 Asian and African Nations"]

[Text] Mr Faysal Al-Khalid, director of the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development announced, during an interview with AL-MAJALLAH, that 60 developing nations had benefited from the fund's loans, with an emphasis on infrastructure projects such as roads, ports and airports. The most visible problem facing the fund is the ability of these nations to execute the projects from an administrative standpoint, and the existence of technical cadres capable of implementing the development programs. He indicated that the private sector had a major role to play in backing development in the Arab world and said that "it conflicts with some Arab countries' policies, in attempting to penetrate Arab markets to strengthen their economies." The following is the text of the interview with Mr Faysal Al-Khalid:

[Question] Would you please give us an idea about the fund?

[Answer] The fund is a development organization founded in 1961. Its primary purpose is promotion of development in developing nations, particularly the Arab countries. The fund specialized in, or rather began offering loans, to the Arab countries since its establishment and until 1974. Its laws and basic regulations were then amended to include all Third World countries. As a result, the fund's capital experienced successive increases. It had started with a capital of 200 million Kuwaiti dinars and reached, in 1981, 2 billion Kuwaiti dinars. As for its basic goals, it aims at assisting developing nations to finance their projects and development plans. The number of countries with which the fund has worked has reached nearly 60 developing nations in Africa and Asia, besides the Arab countries. The fund's liabilities approached nearly 1 billion, 100 million Kuwaiti dinars, or the equivalent of 3.7 billion dollars. The fund assisted the beneficiary countries with technical assistance by providing the experts these countries needed to strengthen their developmental institutions, or by providing them with technical equipment, or by cooperating in designing plans and studying the advantages of projects to be implemented.

The fund's financing contributions center on underwriting infrastructure projects, agriculture, electricity and industrial ventures related to national

resources, to encourage the utilization of these resources. The fund has cooperated with the developmental organizations, particularly the Arab ones, such as the Saudi Fund, the Arab Fund, the Islamic Bank, and the "OPEC" Fund, to finance a number of projects. The coordination between these funds and the developmental organizations has reached a point of semi-annual meetings at the directors-of-operations level to coordinate, consult and present the proposed projects, to exchange views about them and to arrange for financing them. These meetings have been very successful in standardizing some procedures used in developmental organizations regarding arranging agreements, contracts with contractors and consultants and laying down unified procedures. This has resulted in facilitating the procedures for the beneficiary countries and easing the preparatory operation and implementation for planned projects. The cooperation has led to the creation of joint missions from the financing funds that evaluate the proposed projects--which led to the decrease in the size of administrative costs and other expenses that would cost organizations additional sums were they to operate individually. When the Arab funds' cooperation experiment succeeded, other funds contacted us and asked us to cooperate. We are currently cooperating with international organizations such as the European Common Market and the AOCD group. Two meetings are held annually with them to coordinate and consult and are attended by representatives from the International Bank.

Prominent Projects

[Question] What are the most prominent projects established within the cooperation and coordination framework between the different funds?

[Answer] All the projects, in which the Arab organizations participated (individually or jointly), are valuable and of use, since each project presented is studied carefully and its priorities are assured within the development program in these countries, and given priority in financing. If a project is deemed unnecessary, the funds will not consider it. But some projects are of particular importance such as a venture in Mauritania, whereby the economy depended upon it entirely and could not survive without it. That is the iron mining project which cost nearly 500-600 million dollars, and in which the Arab funds participated in financing, since a country such as Mauritania would have been unable to provide the necessary funds to establish it. The project is nearly completed. The Kuwaiti Fund participated in financing it, along with the other Arab funds, after its rejection by the International Bank. The Kuwaiti Fund submitted the project ahead of all others presented, in addition to collecting the requisite money for financing. This has highlighted the Kuwaiti Fund's role in assisting some poor countries. Hence, the "heart" project for iron mining in Mauritania is considered among the most prominent joint ventures for the Arab funds. The project is currently underway, enabling Mauritania--a brother Arab country--to be assured that its economy will be healthy, since 30,000 families depend on it and since it provides 80 percent of the foreign currency in the national income for Mauritania's economy. Without it the economy would have collapsed.

[Question] What are the criteria on which loans are based?

[Answer] There are several criteria for financing any project presented to the Kuwaiti Fund. The first is that the proposed country be a developing one. Second, the project must have been studied technically and economically and must be a priority in that country's development program. We are careful to obtain studies of the project, relating to its economic and technical usefulness. I emphasize these two points because very often projects are proposed without having been studied comprehensively. They are sometimes studied from a technical angle, while the economic aspect is neglected. One of the most important prerequisites for obtaining a developmental fund loan is the provision of reports meeting with its approval. Once the project is approved, a technical mission from the Kuwaiti Fund or the participating financing organizations is dispatched to evaluate the project and discuss it with officials from the beneficiary country to provide any missing information. The loan agreement is then signed; including articles and legal conditions to guarantee its proper implementation and operation.

[Question] How many developing countries have benefited from the Kuwaiti Fund's loans and what types of projects were financed?

[Answer] The number has reached 60 developing countries. The types of projects which the fund has concentrated on financing have been infrastructure projects such as roads, ports, airports, electricity and other basic services. But the focus was on transportation and communications, followed by agriculture, which takes up the largest segment of financing offered by the fund, since food security is one of the stated goals. The other projects we funded were also related to agriculture, directly or indirectly, because we have aimed at financing projects that would be of use in agriculture, such as irrigation, dam construction or road building, which the fund considers of particular importance.

Development Problems

[Question] What are the most outstanding problems facing the fund?

[Answer] There are many problems in development; but not one outstanding. There may be a small problem, but a country's ability to overcome it may complicate matters. Some of the general problems facing development funds are the capability of the country to implement these projects from an administrative standpoint and the existence of technical cadres capable of carrying out the development programs. That's why the funds seek to support these capabilities by providing training or financing the importation of some foreign experts to reinforce the developmental organizations in those countries, and to enable them to establish domestic training programs which will employ national manpower and implement the proposed projects in the future.

[Question] What are the most outstanding development problems in the Arab countries?

[Answer] The problems I mentioned also apply to the Arab countries. These are the existence of administrative capabilities and bureaucratic complications endemic to them; the lack of defined plans and designed goals for the

development operations--which makes these operations complicated and riddled with problems.

[Question] What is the role of the private sector in backing development in the Arab world?

[Answer] It has a major role. Unfortunately, it conflicts with some of the Arab countries' policies in its attempts to penetrate Arab markets to assist their economies. It further supports facilitating their procedures in dealing with the private sector, to enable it to participate effectively in implementing the development plans or successful investments within them.

12325

CSO: 4404/373

STATUS OF VARIOUS NATIONAL PROJECTS DISCUSSED

Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 11 May 83 p 3

[Article by Mustahil bin Ahmad: "Construction of Four Thousand Housing Units During the Current Five-Year Plan; Providing Rewarding Job Opportunities to the Citizens"]

[Text] His Excellency Shaykh Mustahil bin Ahmad al-Ma'ashani, minister of labor and social affairs, stated that the Sultanate has outlined real steps in the vocational training field whose effects will be very clear and obvious. The number of training centers has grown from only one center in 1973 to seven in 1982-83, and from 70 students in 1973 to 1,200 in the 1982-83 school year. At the same time, the number of students in night school has risen to 855, compared to 38 in 1973, and the number of graduates has risen to 231 in 1982, compared to 11 in 1973.

In an interview published recently in the newspaper AL-RA'SMAL AL-'ARABI, His Excellency added that the country's second Five-Year Plan involves more than opening vocational training centers. In addition, it incorporates a new system in the training field, establishing mobile training units which travel with their equipment, apparatus and staff to distant areas where citizens have no transportation to existing centers.

His Excellency referred to the prominent indicators of common Arab Gulf social work and the clear indicators of the efforts being exerted by the Arab states in the Gulf toward guiding the paths of cooperation, coordination and integration.

His Excellency said that the most prominent signs of common Gulf action are drawing up a draft Gulf Arab timetable for vocational classification; reliance on the first Five-Year Plan for labor and social research; reliance on the general framework for programs to celebrate Arab Gulf Social Work Week, to include all types of social activities; holding a council on the subject of preparing studies of labor statistics in the Arab Gulf states; completion of a study of types of services offered for Arab Gulf children and methods of developing these services; completion of a study of social guidance and direction in the Arab Gulf states; preparation of a preliminary exploratory study concerning creation of an Arab Gulf institute for industrial security studies; and confirmation of the importance of studying the subject of the effect of foreign governesses on the characteristics of the Arab family in the Gulf.

In reply to a question about the role of the ministry in watching over Omani society and providing public housing, Shaykh Mustahil bin Ahmad replied: "His Majesty Sultan Qabus bin Sa'id has defined the outlines of the path which we are following under his wise leadership. He is establishing a modern state whose basis is the progressive person who is aware of his role in maintaining his identity while responding to the needs of the modern era, within the framework of his values and his faith."

His Excellency added that the ministry has taken on the burden of providing social services for the family through its various activities since it was established in 1972. It has outlined social policy on the basis of realistic study of local problems and the material and human potential available, and on the basis of harmony between needs, potential, and the preparation of leaders in the social work field in every area and in all circumstances, to translate the ministry's social goals into fact.

Today every person in need enjoys complete, uniform and open guaranteed care for everyone entitled to it; Omani women and children have won special care and attention; there are work and training opportunities for everyone who wants them, and mutual agreement and cooperation between labor and management. Also, retarded and handicapped citizens have won the right to equal opportunity for care and complete participation and equality.

His Excellency explained that there are a number of diverse areas of aid offered by the ministry. These include social security, aid offered to the citizen after catastrophes, special care available to lepers and the handicapped, and maternity and childcare, as well as making it possible for women to serve society.

In connection with housing, Shaykh Mustahil bin Ahmad said that it is a great and splendid achievement, because one of the most important manifestations of development and social progress in any nation is the ability of the officials there to provide healthy, suitable housing for the classes whose limited income makes it impossible for them to obtain this vital necessity of life.

During the first Five-Year Plan, the ministry offered citizens of limited income about 2,304 public housing units in the various regions of the country. The ministry is now working to implement the provisions of the second Five-Year Plan (1980-85) in the field of public housing, which call for the construction of about 4,000 housing units.

Shaykh Mustahil discussed the subject of employment and labor, saying: "The ministry has established its policy along the following main lines: providing care for the Omani citizen, protecting him, attempting to raise his technical and vocational abilities, advancing him economically, culturally and socially by providing rewarding employment opportunities, and guaranteeing the citizen's stability by providing a comfortable, calm life.

"We want to organize labor-management relations and establish a balance with the aim of strengthening this relationship, to ensure that they will continue on the basis of the law; supervise implementation of the provisions of the labor laws in companies and organizations; and guide and advise management to see that these provisions are carried out properly."

"We supervise the offering of health and treatment services and the availability of social services to the work force, whether that is in the form of suitable housing, offering surplus food, or improving methods of transportation to and from the work site. We count the work force in the country, including natives and foreigners, keep track of sources of labor and classify workers to participate in planning for the work force in the Sultanate, and guarantee a suitable rate of compensation in case of industrial accidents and work-related illnesses."

7587

CSO: 4404/402

NUMEROUS ROAD PROJECTS UNDERWAY

Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 16 May 83 p 33

[Excerpts] The General Directorate for Roads has completed several projects during the past month in the field of surveying, paving and building roads, especially in the capital region, the difficult mountain regions, and the various administrative divisions, to enable citizens to travel with ease to obtain the services which they need.

The specialized groups supplied by the directorate carried out this work on a limited time schedule according to technical principles and specifications.

The police of the Sultanate of Oman participated with the General Directorate for Roads by keeping the citizens informed of roads on which work was in progress. They also placed the necessary warning signs to guarantee the safety of the citizens and to avoid accidents which might result from the digging or repair work.

The directorate surveyed 6,120 kilometers, twice on the average, in the area of the capital and the rest of the administrative divisions of the Sultanate. It paved 178 kilometers in the capital region and the rest of the administrative divisions of the Sultanate. It built 87,700 kilometers in areas including the difficult mountain regions: 4 kilometers in the Capital Area; 5,200 kilometers in the Sama'il and Birkat al-Mawz region; 45,000 kilometers in the Ibri and Khadal region; and 15,000 kilometers in the al-Sharqiyah region.

The shoulders of roads damaged by the recent heavy rains were also paved and repaired.

Also, all of the earthen roads which had been closed by the rains have been reopened, and regular periodic repairs of all roads in the capital and outside the capital have been completed. All of the directional and warning signs, barriers and other equipment to make all of the roads passable have been replaced. The General Directorate for Roads has made preparations to improve the approximately 40 kilometers of earthen roads in the three capital regions (Rawi, Mussat, Matrah).

Instructions were issued to carry out this work beginning on 1 April 83, to be completed in a period of 40 days. It was also decided that work would begin at 9 in the evening and continue until 6 in the morning so that traffic would not be disrupted during the daylight hours and the work would not cause any hardship for the citizens.

It should be noted that this work is considered the first of its kind to be carried out by the directorate through its own technicians and equipment, without resorting to any foreign company.

This will be an experiment and will be followed by large programs for many other projects to be carried out by the directorate in all parts of the Sultanate, such as building service roads.

7587

CSO: 4404/402

PLANNING MOVES FORWARD FOR SULTAN QABUS UNIVERSITY

Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 17 May 83 p 1

[Article by Mumtaz al-Qatt: "Planning Successfully Under Way for Sultan Qabus University; al-Mundhuri: 'University Carries Out Development Research to Serve Society'"]

[Text] Broad outlines have been drawn up for the courses of study in all of the colleges of Sultan Qabus University. Plans for building housing for male and female students have been approved, and construction has started on this housing.

His Excellency Yahya Mahfuz al-Mundhuri, minister of education and youth affairs, stated that in a special interview with 'UMAN. His Excellency said that the company authorized to construct the academic buildings is now putting the final touches on the working plan. Committees have started to prepare the university's requirements, the necessary supplies for them, and the laboratories and facilities which the university includes. Also, plans are now being made to determine the university's quotas for teachers and professors so that contracts can be signed with them before the university opens.

His Excellency Yahya Mahfuz al-Mundhuri added that any university is linked with the needs of society from several aspects. Sultan Qabus University has been planned to play an effective role in meeting the needs of Omani society at its present and future stages of growth. His Excellency said that the most important role that Sultan Qabus University can play is to prepare Omani youth educationally, morally and socially, so that they become citizens who are fully aware of their responsibilities toward their nation and their society and are able and willing to bear these responsibilities.

He added that Sultan Qabus University will grant the opportunity in the coming years to a large number of Omani youth to take advantage of various specialties, according to their inclinations and abilities, so that they will have the education to pursue these specialties and return advantage and benefit to Omani society, whether in the government or private sector.

His Excellency said that Sultan Qabus University will not be content with transferring knowledge but will have an important role in applying that knowledge in Omani society and discovering new aspects of it through scientific research which the university will carry out, to be used in solving development, economic or social problems. In cooperation with the government ministries and the private sector, the university will participate in developing our economy, improving the services provided the citizen, and raising them to better levels. His Excellency concluded his statement by saying that the university will be in direct and continuous contact with our Omani society.

7587

CSO: 4404/402

BRIEFS

AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES DELEGATION--Engineer 'Abd-al-Hafiz Salim Rajab, minister of agriculture and fisheries, and his delegation are now visiting the Netherlands, and meeting with Dutch officials to discuss strengthening the existing cooperation between the Sultanate and the Netherlands. The Omanis, under the leadership of Eng 'Abd-al-Hafiz Salim Rajab, and the Dutch, under the leadership of their minister of agriculture and fisheries, held a second round of official talks yesterday morning. These talks were attended by members of the Omani delegation and some senior officials in the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture. In the course of the talks, the participants reviewed methods of developing and furthering joint cooperation between the two countries in the fields of agriculture and fishing resources. The two sides also discussed the subject of exchanging technical expertise in these fields. The day before yesterday, Eng 'Abd-al-Hafiz Salim Rajab and his delegation visited some Dutch agricultural marketing and crop production companies, where they learned about their activities and the various aspects of their work. [Text] [Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 14 May 83 p 3] 7587

CSO: 4404/402

SUBSIDY ON OIL PRODUCTS TO BE REMOVED

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 20, 16 May 83 pp 6, 7

[Text]

The UAE expects to save Dirhams 1.4 billion (\$380 million) in its annual budget this year by removing the subsidy provided by the federal government on refined oil products. This was announced by Ahmed al-Tayer, Undersecretary at the Minister of Finance and Industry, who told *Al-Bayan* newspaper that the recent 32 per cent increase in domestic gasoline and other fuel prices was intended to offset the annual government subsidy of Dirhams 700 million (\$190 million) to Abu Dhabi and an equal amount to the other Emirates (*An-Nahar Arab Report & MEMO*, May 9). The price rises would also help alleviate the budget deficit, which has been aggravated by lower oil revenues, Mr Tayer said.

Gasoline consumption in the UAE has been running at higher levels than in other Gulf states, averaging 4,323 gallons per person per year in 1981. Total energy consumption in 1981 was 16.5 per cent higher than in 1980, including a 14 per cent rise in regular gasoline use, 20 per cent in premium gasoline, 16.2 per cent in kerosene and 10 per cent in diesel, according to oil industry sources quoted by *Gulf News*. The figures for 1982 are expected to be much higher. The Dubai newspaper said that no immediate market reaction had occurred, noting that higher internal freight charges were likely to have only a marginal effect on the cost of everyday items.

The country's oil earnings, which are the mainstay of government income, dropped 21 per cent last year to Dirhams 53.1 billion (\$14.5 billion), against Dirhams 67.2 billion (\$18 billion) in 1981, according to a Central Bank report issued last week. Natural gas sales, however, increased by a quarter to Dirhams 5.5 billion (\$1.5 billion). Total imports were down 5 per cent to Dirhams 34 billion (\$9 billion), the bank said.

Oil output of around 1.4 million b/d at the beginning of 1982 is thought to have fallen below 1 million b/d for a time. Production in March this year was estimated at 1.09 million b/d, just under the UAE's OPEC-set quota of 1.1 million b/d.

CUSTOMS DUTIES TO INCREASE

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 21, 23 May 83 pp 4, 5

[Text]

Member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council are to raise customs duties on imported goods and to adopt a unified customs policy following a meeting in Riyadh on May 11 of Finance Ministers of the six countries (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman). The new duties, which will range from a minimum of 4 per cent *ad valorem* to a maximum of 20 per cent, will come into effect on September 1. Measures to protect locally produced goods against foreign imports were also discussed by the ministers but the issue still has to be dealt with in detail by the GCC Ministerial Committee on Industrial Cooperation.

The increase will mean a steep rise in government revenues. In the UAE, duty of only 1 per cent is charged at present on imports and the local daily *Gulf News* estimated that higher duties would bring in Dirhams 1 billion (\$270 million) a year if 1982 trade patterns were repeated. The estimate was based on last year's figures for customs duties in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, which together account for roughly 90 per cent of imports into the Emirates. Abu Dhabi can expect to see duties rise from Dirhams 70 million (\$19 million) to about Dirhams 300 million (\$81 million), Dubai double this figure and Sharjah about Dirhams 100 million (\$27 million). About 60 per cent of the UAE's imports enter through Dubai, 30 per cent through Abu Dhabi and about 10 per cent through Sharjah.

The *Gulf News* quoted a Dubai port and customs source as saying the new duty would not apply to the Emirate's busy re-export trade and that this would make goods imported by neighbouring countries through Dubai's free trade zone relatively cheaper than direct imports from the manufacturer. Dubai's re-exports were worth Dirhams 2.754 billion (about \$1 billion) in 1982.

The newspaper added that the effects of higher duty would be "marginal" in local markets because of competition among merchants.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

ABYAN GOVERNORATE OFFICIALS MEET WITH PUBLIC, HEAR DEMANDS

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 11 Apr 83 p 2

[Article by 'Abdallah al-Shidadi: "Members of the Higher People's Assembly and the Local People's Assembly Meet with Constituents in the District of Ja'ar, Abyan Province in the Context of the Meeting between the People's Representatives and Their Constituents"]

[Text] In the context of the meetings the various governorates are witnessing, a meeting was held between people's deputies in the Higher People's Assembly and the local people's assembly in the District of Ja'ar, Abyan Province. Participating in these meetings were our comrades Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad and Muhammad Sulayman Nasir, member of the Higher People's Assembly, and Jamilah Muhammad Ahmad, member of the local people's assembly in the governorate.

At the start of the meeting, a review of agricultural conditions was presented by Comrade Muhammad Sulayman Nasir, and the government's contributions to its development, the role the district's citizens are playing in supporting local authorities in the very grim times to cope with the catastrophe of the floods which have inflicted extreme damage on the land and installations involved with irrigation, and the efforts made by laborers in the governorate. The minister reviewed the measures the government has taken to rebuild the irrigation installations; work has started in restoring the Batis Dam, to which 1,453,000 dinars were allocated in the plan, as well as the traditional irrigation project, for 900,000 dinars, and numerous agricultural projects in the various directorates of the governorate, including those in the categories of agricultural research and improvement, and projects to develop fruit, increase seed production, provide unlimited support for state farms, and develop the activity of cooperatives and rental stations in order to upgrade agriculture in the governorate.

The substantial financial allocations for development projects in the governorate became apparent during the review of the development plan by the member of the local people's assembly, the female comrade Jamilah Muhammad Ahmad. The allocations made in this year's plan came to 10,388,839 dinars and were devoted to numerous areas, including health, since a central hospital will be established in Ja'ar on which construction work will begin this April at a cost of 1,174,000 dinars. In addition, the Ja'ar electricity system, whose current capacity comes to 5,000 kilowatts, will be strengthened; this year, that will be raised to just 11,000 kilowatts, while before independence it was no more than 500 kilowatts,

which were allocated basically to the homes of sultans and big landowners, while now many villages in the District of Ja'ar itself are being provided with lighting, and electricity, for the first time, is entering the villages of al-Khamilah, Husn Shidad, 'Amudiyah, Bashajarah, and the villages of al-Makhzan al-Sharqi and al-Gharbi. The villages of 'Ibar 'Uthman and al-Muyuh will soon be supplied with electricity.

In addition, the capacity of the internal system in the towns has been doubled, to keep abreast of the power requirements of citizens, whose standards of living have evolved to the point which they have started using electric appliances in their homes.

In addition, construction works have been expanded in the towns, consumption has increased, and electricity has become available. Alongside the local projects, the local authorities in the Directorate of Khanfar are providing support for 17 projects by contributing 50 percent of the cost, to help citizens improve social services.

In their discussion, the constituents and their representatives reached a consensus that they had attained a development in living standard. On housing matters, the response regarding those was undertaken by the director of housing in the governorate, who pointed out that parts of the town of Ja'ar had been allotted to construction, in the southern area, which would extend to the two villages of al-Makhzan, except for the village of al-Mahariq, which is a rich section. He also pointed out that the Housing Department has build prefabricated foundations for distribution to citizens, for the completion of their personal dwellings.

In a response he made, the director of the governorate branch of the Ministry of Fish Resources stressed that the fishing equipment in the Shaqarah and Ahwar cooperatives would be improved, and that would contribute to the catch of high quality fresh fish.

The director of the water department also declared that there were water projects which would result in substantially upgrading the pumping and piping of water. In addition, the current setting of prices would be managed by installing meters in homes, as in the Governorate of Aden.

As regards education, the education director in Khanfar reviewed the fact that the accreditation of teachers was proceeding well, since about 150 teachers had been accredited in the District of Ja'ar alone, and small courses were being set up in laboratories. In addition, the expansion of education has compelled us to cover the schools with teachers in numerous areas of specialization who were accredited by the branch of the Higher Education Faculty in Zinjbar and the Teachers' College.

In a statement he made, Comrade Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad, member of the central committee, chairman of the executive committee, member of the Higher People's Assembly and the local people's assembly, and the elected representative in the Ja'ar district, praised the citizens' efforts and the enthusiasm they have

expressed in holding discussions with freedom and responsibility, giving concrete form to the awareness they possess, and he stressed that further achievements would be made on their behalf in all areas, the town would flourish, gardens and esplanades would be established, the conditions of the municipalities, roads, electricity and water would improve, since the Zinjbar-Aden and Ja'ar-al-Husn road would be repaired, branch roads would be built to link towns to villages, the health situation would be improved by the construction of the central hospital and the provision of specialized doctors, in addition to the health efforts provided by the Naji Hospital, the al-Sadaqah Bridge over the Banna gorge would be built, and work would start on it this year.

It is worth pointing out that similar meetings were presented in Zinjbar, al-Kui, al-Husn, Batis, Shaqrah, and Yaramis, in the areas of the District of Rasa, and in the Directorates of Lawdar and Mudiyah.

11337

SSO: 4404/367

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

SECRETARY GENERAL CONDUCTS ANTI-ILLITERACY MEETINGS, SEMINARS

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 18 Apr 83 p 1

[Article: "The Secretary General Asserts the Importance of Making the Campaign To Eradicate Illiteracy Totally a Success"]

[Excerpts] Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, the secretary general of the Central Committee, chairman of the presidium of the Higher People's Council and the prime minister, stressed the importance of having all party, government and mass personnel devote all their attention to participating effectively in carrying out the campaign to eliminate illiteracy totally and observe care and constant followup of the prosecution of the preparation and execution stage.

This was stated in the course of his visit to the Public Anti-Illiteracy and Adult Education Department the day before yesterday. There, he studied the various aspects of the arrangements and preparations for the campaign to eradicate illiteracy totally and establish the system of people's education which is to be put into effect next year, 1984.

The discussion addressed itself to executive steps, which include the reconstitution of anti-illiteracy and people's education committees at various levels, support for the Central Anti-Illiteracy Agency and its branches in the governorates, the determination of the missions and areas of specializations of the party and mass organizations, media, educational and cultural institutions and professional and technical federations, and a further number of steps.

Comrade 'Ali Nasir Muhammad also listened to a description of the study courses which will be held to accredit 1,489 teachers in the secondary stage and prepare them to carry out tasks of training student pioneers and orientation personnel in the form of teachers in the unity schools, and organize special courses of study for the anti-illiteracy campaign for 55,000 male and female students, to accredit them to teach illiterate masses.

Training courses will also be held for 9,841 male and female teachers in the unity schools, and a system for training during service will be set out.

In addition to the equipment, a total of 1,062,000 books, educational materials, guides and brochures for lectures will be printed, and all other requirements in this area will be provided.

He was also informed of preliminary statistics showing the breakdown of illiterates in the various governorates of the republic by males in the 12 to 45 age group and females from 12 to 35, totalling about 364,000 citizens, and statistics on the number of male and female students and teachers who are to participate in the campaign in the various governorates. About 43,812 male and female students, about 9,495 male and female teachers, and about 13,331 male and female teachers in the unity schools will take part.

11887

CCO: 4404/367

INDUSTRY MINISTER DISCUSSES VARIOUS OIL EXPLORATION VENTURES

Aden AL-MASAR in Arabic No 4, Apr 83 pp 40-43

[Interview with Minister of Industry 'Abd-al-Qadir Bajamal by Muhammad 'Abdallah Mukhshif; date and place not specified]

/Text/ Oil is a world that has its own affairs and concerns. Interest in it and emphasis on it has taken precedence over all concerns, and it has become the pre-occupation of the world and of people, from the struggle with nature, with its deserts, wildernesses and seas, in the quest and search for it, to the extraction and production of it, and the marketing and selling of it, with the concomitant struggles, conspiracies and conferences among producing and consuming countries and their major companies.

Since ours is a developing country which is newly independent and is earnestly striving to discover this mineral, in order to exploit it for the happiness and prosperity of its people, attention to and the search for oil are continuing without letup in this world full of secrets and quests. Because oil, as we mentioned above, is a world that has its own affairs and concerns, a world whose secrets and symbols can be unlocked only by those who living in the midst of it and following up on it, AL-MASAR brought the questions and desire to learn the news of oil that have been fermenting in people's spirits and minds to our brother 'Abd-al-Qadir Bajamal, nominated member of the Central Committee, minister of industry and chairman of the Oil and Mineral Authority.

Our first question of the minister of industry and chairman of the Oil Authority concerned the latest news on the oil exploration and discovery activity underway in the country, especially since more than a year ago the Italian firm AGIP broadcast a declaration on its discovery of oil in the Sharmah area in the Gulf of Aden. He replied by stating:

A Discovery through Seven Wells Offshore

"The process of exploring for oil is a complex one, by the nature of the case, and it requires very great effort, constant information, and greater and greater examination of this information. As far as we in Democratic Yemen are concerned, oil was discovered after the drilling of seven wells offshore. This in itself, in my estimation, should be considered a good result, but matters do not end merely with the discovery of the oil. This process is followed by a group of technical

and economic activities, the most prominent of which is the fact that this discovery must be fully evaluated so that one can determine the reserves and the percentage of the reserves that can be produced, as well as determining the cost of developing the discovery, and the economics of it. That is, before we set out a program to develop and produce, it is necessary that emphasis essentially be placed on thorough attention to study the economics of the discovery.

"Of course, the matter does not stop there. Rather, that is the beginning of a great task. There is an agreement with the AGIP company giving it an evaluation period which will continue until it obtains adequate information. In this stage, we will determine various aspects of the operation. We will define the rocks in which the exploration has taken place, the nature of the structure itself, the geological circumstances surrounding the structure, and the relationship between this and other structures. This all requires abundant, exceptional research. Work is now underway by the Oil Authority and the AGIP company to round out this information. We anticipate that this job will be completed in a period that will not go on long. We are also now intending to prepare for the evaluation drilling stage, which will give a full picture before the production process starts, and the decision on that, and on the manner and quantity involved in it, will come at a later period."

/Question/ How many oil companies are operating in the country in the oil exploration and drilling area? What are their nationalities? Is there any news and information on the results of the operations they are carrying out, and how far they have got?

Exploratory Drilling in Al-Ghayzah-Hawarid

/Answer/ In addition to the Italian firm AGIP, which is working offshore, there is the Brazilian company Braspetro, with which we signed an agreement about a year ago. That is working onshore on an area of about 42,000 kilometers. This is considered to be a good company, and we feel that it is serious about the work, on the basis of the magnitude of the exploration program it has set out in the al-Ghayzah-Hawarid area, an area which extends from the al-Mahrah Governorate to the Governorate of Hadramawt.

The company is now carrying out extensive survey work in the area. On the basis of the agreement with it, it will start exploratory drilling in a year at the most. Our information about the activity of the company, and our conclusions, are in general good. I would like to point out that this company, expressing further confidence in the area, asked for the government's agreement 6 months ago to get another company to go in with it on the work, to the extent of 20 percent of its share; we agreed to that. The new company is Hispanoil. This means that getting another company to go in with it on what is called a risk, and the acceptance of risk in an oil operation by foreign companies is in itself a sign that there are possibilities for the discovery of oil in Democratic Yemen.

The World Bank Project

In addition to that, other activities are being carried out by means of contracting companies, not on a production sharing basis. For instance, we have a project,

called the World Bank oil project, whose cost is about 10 million dinars, to survey various areas of the republic. This is being assumed by a French company, and it is expected that it will finish work on it in the middle of this year.

The French company's task is preparatory work for subsequent exploration which will be carried out by other countries or bilaterally, after the areas in which the work can take place are determined, after the survey activity now underway is completed. That is, in the next 6 months, the final results by which we will be able to determine specific areas which can be promoted and in which one can enter into detailed activities will become evident to us.

Turnkey

There is a fourth job we are carrying out which is really big. Drilling and survey activities are taking place in a number of areas at the same time, by means of a Soviet company, on the basis of a "turnkey" contract. Part of the company's work program for this year is the simultaneous drilling of two wells, one in the Shibwah area and the other in the Thamud area. So far, two wells have been drilled; of course, we cannot imagine that conclusions can be drawn from two wells. Many countries have drilled up to 40 or 50 wells to get oil, and in some of them, oil appeared after a single well was drilled.

The advantage of this job (whose base is the system of contracting and construction, including all exploration and production work, by a loan financed in full by the Soviet Union, which does not share production with us, but rather, if oil is discovered by the Soviets, it will be purely the property of the Yemeni people) /is that/ this is an advanced formula in oil exploration activities. This year we also expect that work will be expanded with the Soviets through operations in new areas. This project specifically is endowed with special importance, by the government of Democratic Yemen and by the government of the Soviet Union.

/Question/ When did the first oil exploration activities and the efforts the government is making in this area begin? How much money has been spent on that?

\$40 Million

/Answer/ Expenditures on oil drilling and exploration activities are being made on a large scale, in view of the nature of these tasks. For example, this year the volume of work will come to about \$40 million, of which \$30 million will be in the government plan and 10 Million will be spent by the other operating companies. Large amounts have been spent in previous years, including amounts the companies have spent which we cannot calculate because they do not lie within the plan. There is a constant escalation in a large new fashion in the figures the government has spent. For example, just \$1 million were spent on oil and mineral exploration together in the 3-year plan, which is of course a minor amount, which cannot yield anything in the complicated, expensive conditions of the world of oil. This figure rose to \$6.2 million in the first 5-year plan, in the area of oil alone. In the current second 5-year plan, allocations will come to \$34 million. The expenditures of the companies that are working on a production-sharing

basis do not enter into these figures. From this, it is evident that the work has become large and expensive, and covers massive areas.

/Question/ It is well known that the Pan American Company was conducting oil exploration and drilling activity in the Governorate of Hadramawt before independence. However, a few years before independence, this company finished its activities. Is there a plan or a thought of going back to explore in the same areas in which the Pan American Company was?

/Answer/ All areas and reaches of the republic are now totally open to exploration, surveys and drilling, whether in Thamud, the northeast of Hadramawt, or Hibwah and al-Mahrah. The area open to this sort of work comes to no less than 170,000 /square/ kilometers of territory in the republic. There is no area that is not subject to exploration and surveys or in which this has not taken place, not to mention the other mineral and geology work that is also taking place.

As far as the Pan American Company goes, many things caused it to leave the area at that time, among them well known political reasons, or perhaps its view of the situation in Democratic Yemen at that time. In the last analysis, each company operates from political premises. The world of oil is not isolated from politics, but is very much connected to the political situation.

/Question/ With all these efforts, how long do you expect it will take before the start of oil production is announced?

Everything in Its Own Time

/Answer/ It is hard for us to state a specific time which we can specify by date or year as being the production date. The world of oil does not tolerate "astrology," and we cannot "conduct astrology." In brief, we must study in total confidence and set out adequate plans and programs to carry out the work, and everything will come about in its own time. Through AL-MASAR magazine, I can stress to all members of the people that the government has devoted exceptional attention to this matter, and it enjoys great priority, because it in my estimation is indeed a national resource which must be exploited, no matter how large or small it may be.

/Question/ It is well known that since ownership of the Aden refinery reverted to the government, it has been operating continuously and increasing the volumes of oil refined in comparison with the previous period. We would like to know the status of the refinery at present, its production volume, and the projects to develop the refinery, since it is an important economic installation.

Development of the Aden Refinery

/Answer/ Since the refinery was built in 1952, and production began in 1954, it has gone through four stages. The first was from 1954 to 1961, when its maximum refining capacity was 5 million tons. The second stage was from 1961 to 1964, when production rose to 6.8 million tons, to keep up with the increased shipping activity in the port of Aden at that time. The third stage lasted from 1964 to 1966, when the company brought in new equipment, which brought its actual capacity

up to 8 million tons. As a result of that, the years 1965 and 1966 were years of maximum capacity. Because of the closure of the Suez Canal in 1967 and the change in port activity which occurred because ships no longer passed through the Gulf of Aden to the Red Sea or vice versa, the refinery's capacity started to decline. At that time the company was considering the profit aspect only, and continued to reduce production for various reasons, among them the fact that the BP Company started to concentrate its activity in Britain itself, on North Sea oil, as well as the termination of British influence in the area, which caused it to cease to be interested in the refinery. As a result of that, the refinery's output dropped to 1.6 million in 1976, meaning that the company had actually started to feel that it was not able to survive.

After the refinery was handed over in 1977 and administered by good domestic management, it achieved great success; in the period since 1977 we have managed to achieve confident, advanced steps as a result of which, starting this year, all the jobs in the refinery, from the foreign technical manager of the refinery, the senior engineer, the maintenance manager, and so forth, were all Yemenized. In addition, a big leap has occurred in the activity of the refinery, as embodied in increased refining capacity, which came to 3.9 million tons last year. This year we expect that it will reach 4.1 million tons, on the basis of refining contracts between us and the companies and countries we deal with.

In its new situation, the refinery has proved that it is the object of confidence on the part of all the bodies which deal with it, that it is able technically to meet its commitments to others, and that it has good work traditions and oversight and is up to date in methods of conducting transactions on the international markets.

As regards development projects, we of course have a number of projects, estimated at about \$190 million, including a project to increase storage and another to deepen the refinery harbor and build an electric plant, which are basic projects, in addition to two other projects, one of which will be carried out this year, a project to store gas for cooking, and the second, whose final documents we are now intending to study, which is to produce asphalt.

/Question/ What is your opinion about the current crisis the oil market and price speculation are going through? How do you view practical solutions and resolutions to it, in order to preserve the value of this commodity and unity among the countries that produce it?

Content with the Results of the OPEC Conference

/Answer/ The oil crisis, in my opinion, is basically a crisis of the international capitalist system, which is essentially founded on the base of monopoly which lasted for many years and is embodied in the hemorrhaging of oil resources in a great, harmful and destructive manner. When the oil-producing countries acted to protect their national interests and the interests of their peoples, they severely shook the capitalist companies and countries of the world, which had not realized that they had exploited these peoples for decades. America believes that it has every right, for instance, to throw wheat into the ocean, though it is a

basic food for man, lest a great volume of wheat adversely affect its price on the market and reduce its value, while it denies the oil countries the right to set a fair price for their oil or to determine the production volume of this resource. This is an obvious domineering stance against the resources of peoples, in an arbitrary, terroristic manner.

The fact is that the struggle that is going on in OPEC reflects the struggle between national interests and the capitalist monopolies. It also reflects the tendencies of certain regimes, because not all regimes have the same level of social system and the same policy. However, the great responsibility the OPEC group bears gives it every right to restrict high oil consumption, because this resource does not belong to the current generation--rather, it is the resource of coming generations.

We, as consumers, feel content with the results achieved by the latest OPEC conference, on whose failure, and consequently the collapse of OPEC and so on, ad infinitum, many circles had wagered. OPEC is to be considered an organization that must be preserved in order to preserve the collective negotiating position vis-a-vis the monopolistic companies. The most important resolution OPEC adopted recently was not that of dropping the price to \$29 but that of setting the volume of oil produced. This is the proper nationalistic position of not draining off this resource but of using it intelligently on behalf of the development of these countries' economy and societies. The third point is that it guarantees that the tendency toward independence in decisions will be confined to its lowest limits.

11887

CSO: 4404/368

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

VARIOUS ROAD REPAIR PROJECTS REVIEWED

Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 17 Apr 83 p 2

[Article by Muhammad al-Barhi: "In the Governorate of Lahij: Construction and Repair of Hundreds of Kilometers of Mountain and dirt Roads through Mass Volunteer Initiatives"]

[Text] Road construction, improvement and maintenance is one of the vital tasks to which the party and the government of the revolution are devoting increasing attention.

The Governorate of Lahij, like other governorates in the republic, has witnessed broad activities in the area of road construction, since hundreds of kilometers have been built in order to reach the ridges and peaks of high mountains; these are wide roads over which dozens of passenger vehicles, trucks and vehicles carrying supplies pass daily to nearly 85 percent of the areas of the districts of the directorates of Yafi', Radfan, Tabin, and Dali' which administratively make up the Governorate of Lahij.

The masses in Tifan, through their volunteer initiative, have built all the mountain roads in the various districts, and the government's support of these initiatives, embodied in the provision of machinery and equipment for the job and technicians, has had a great effect on the success of these mass initiatives, which have proceeded to contribute to the building of the nation.

In his conversation with the correspondent of the newspaper 14 UKTUBAR, Comrade Muhammad Nasir Qaddar, director of works in the Governorate of Lahij, stated that the masses' initiatives to construct branch roads which would make it possible to link up all the villages and towns of the governorate were still continuing. Last year, 1982, 80 kilometers of roads were built and paved, and in addition to that 250 kilometers of roads which had been built in previous years were maintained and improved. In addition, through the supported initiatives, those outside the plan, the Bakhal road, which is 60 kilometers long and links the town of al-'Awabil to the areas along the banks of Wadi Banna in the District of al-Shu'ayb, was constructed.

In addition, the plan on the management of the work states that this year, 1983, sidewalks will be built in cooperation with the municipality department for the asphalt road in the town of al-Hawtah which will link the road around the north of the town to that around the south.

In al-dawtah, the main street in the town will also be paved in cooperation with the Ministry of Construction, Road Department, and 50 kilometers of branch mountain roads will be built in various districts by supporting the masses' initiatives. In addition, the Naqil-al-'Ma'di road in the District of Halimayn, whose length will total 350 kilometers, and the Dibsah road in the District of al-Hubaylayn, which will total 39 kilometers in length, will be built. Work is underway on maintaining and improving 80 kilometers of roads in remote areas of the governorate.

It is worth pointing out here that this year the Ministry of Construction is preparing to build and pave a new road, the Dakim-al-Hubaylayn Road, whose length will total 40 kilometers.

11387

MO: 444/307

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

INCREASED PORT SHIPPING--Last year the port of Aden handled 2,360 ships, an increase of 85 over the previous year. Conversely, this led to an increase in the volume of imported goods which the port is responsible for bringing into the territory of the republic; this in its totality came to 778,902 tons in 1982, an increase of 121,097 over 1981. A responsible source in the Port Department told AL-MASAR that the total goods exported came to 52,229 tons last year. As a result of that, the department collected revenues of 9,236,162 dinars that year, for a profit of about 1,839,261 dinars. He added that there are a number of projects related to the development of shipping in the ports of the republic, foremost among them the project of the port of Khalaf in al-Mukalla in the Governorate of Hadramawt, which, when completed, will enable the port to accommodate ships of a capacity of 1,000 deadweight tons. It will consist of two commercial piers and another pier to accommodate fishing vessels. There is the direct mooring project in the al-Mu'alla pier, which will entail the construction of a new pier 750 meters in length made up of four buoys to unload grain cargoes, and another project to develop the current commercial pier. In addition, there is the project of the Nashtun port in the Governorate of al-Mahrah, on which work is now underway at a cost of 12,933,625 dinars. This will be completed in April of next year and it will consist of three piers. /Text/ /Aden AL-MASAR in Arabic No 4, Apr 83 p 7/ 11887

INCREASED REMITTANCES FROM EXPATRIATES--The figures and indices on the remittances of money by Yemeni expatriates from the places to which they have emigrated abroad to their families in the country via the Yemeni National Bank are constantly increasing. These remittances came to 155,392,380 dinars last year, as compared with 135,999,985 dinars the preceding year, 1981, for an increase of 19,292,395 dinars. Our brother Faysal Nabih, the director of the Department of Expatriate Affairs in the Yemeni National Bank, told AL-MASAR: "The bank is exerting great efforts to strengthen the nations' relations with expatriates and to encourage them to open their own accounts in the bank's branches in the capital and the governorates." In this regard, he declared that a large number of expatriates have responded to this appeal and have sought to open accounts for themselves in the bank. He said, "The expatriates' balances on this basis, came to 7,142,652 dinars last year, 1982, as compared with 5,385,869 dinars the preceding year, or an increase of 1,756,783 dinars." He stated that the Yemeni National Bank, through the Department of Expatriate Affairs, is constantly seeking to offer various financial facilities to expatriates and to provide every resource to link them to their homeland by having them open special accounts for themselves in the bank, to take part

in building up and strengthening the domestic economy of the country." /Text/
/Aden AL-MASAR in Arabic No 4, 1 Apr 83 p 6/ 11887

NATIONWIDE GEOLOGICAL MAP BEGUN--This April, work on the first stage of the project on the geological map of Democratic Yemen will begin: this has the goal of investigating and determining areas which contain minerals and natural resources in the ground. The first stage of the project will include the performance of geological surveys over an area of 16,500 square kilometers in the Governorates of Lahij and Abin. The costs of the project, which will be carried out jointly with the Soviet Union and East Germany, will come to \$2.65 million. This includes the delegation of specialized experts, the provision of machinery and equipment, the performance of laboratory analyses, the preparation and production of various geological and mineral maps, and the training and accreditation of Yemeni technical personnel in the area of geology. This stage is to be considered part of the project of the complete geological map of Democratic Yemen. It has the aim of setting out the scientific bases for exploration and mineral resource exploration activities in the country. /Text/ /Aden AL-MASAR in Arabic No 4, Apr 83 p 7/ 11887

WADI HADRAMAWT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT--Democratic Yemen has obtained a loan of \$9 million from the World Bank's International Development Organization. This loan will be used in financing the second stage of the agricultural development of Wadi Hadramawt, which will include the development of a groundwater irrigation system covering an area of 3,225 hectares of cooperative land in the watercourse. The project also includes the drilling of deep wells to be powered by electricity, the surveying of land and the lining of canals, in addition to support for guidance services and agricultural mechanization in the project area. This loan is being made in accordance with an agreement signed by our brother Muhammad Sulayman Nasir, nominated member of the Central Committee and minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, following discussions he held with officials at the International Development Organization during a visit he recently made to the organization's headquarters in Washington. /Text/ /Aden AL-MASAR in Arabic No 4, 1 Apr 83 p 7/ 11887

AGREEMENT ON KHALAF PORT--Yesterday morning an agreement was signed by the Yemeni Ports Department and the British consultants (Koda and Barter) with the goal of gathering information and data and preparing designs and documents on bids related to basic services and supplementary equipment for the port of Khalaf project in the Governorate of Hadramawt. Signing the agreement was Comrade Wazir Ahmad 'Ali, the director general of the department, on behalf of the Yemeni Ports Department, and Mr Wilkinson, on behalf of the consulting firm. The project, whose costs will come to about \$45 million, will consist of 150 cubic meters of piers, 260 cubic meters of which will be to accommodate fishing vessels. In addition, the project will include cleaning up sand, rocks and dirt on the ocean floor in the port basin in order to facilitate the internal and external movement of ships in and out of the harbor. This project is considered to be one of the biggest economic projects in the Governorate of Hadramawt, in light of the importance the construction of this port will entail for the citizens of the governorate. /Text/ /Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 12 Apr 83 p 2/ 11887

NVOI DENOUNCES IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY

TA212121 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 21 Jun 83

[Unattributed commentary: "Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Is the Implementor of the Sinister Aims of Imperialism"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: Several days ago, on the occasion of Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko's speech, Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement in which, relying only on a single sentence from Mr Gromyko's remarks to the effect that the conflict between Iran and Iraq is meaningless, it portrayed this as meaning the Soviet Union's interference in Iran's internal affairs.

In order that our dear compatriots would see for the umpteenth time that certain officials in the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran have indeed the mission of carrying out the "Neither East Nor West" policy, are the tool of imperialism, and are assigned the task of implementing the orders of U.S. and British diplomatic and security officials, we bring to the attention of the dear compatriots two documents that are directly connected to the statement by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs considered these remarks by Mr Gromyko as interference in Iran's affairs. Such a conclusion is both negation of international mores and regulations, and total indifference toward accepted international principles with respect to the rights and authority of every independent country. Now why does Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs consider these few words as interference in Iran's internal affairs and even issues a statement? You will find the answer in the second document, that is the letter by the Zionist Brinski, the former U.S. president's national security adviser, to Carter, the then U.S. secretary of state.

In order that our dear compatriots would understand the issue better we also quote the statement by Senator Jackson, one of the most experienced U.S. senators and the staunch supporter of the accursed shah. In connection with Israel's aggression on Lebanon Jackson says: All these are important issues but the most important issue in the Persian Gulf is that Iran should not lean toward friendship with the Soviet Union.

As you are observing, the issue has been stated in such a forthright manner that there is no need for explanation or comment. Reportedly, some officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are trying to implement the lessons that they have learned in U.S. and British educational institutions from the CIA and Intelligence Service scholars. It is for this reason that Iran's Foreign Ministry does not feel itself bound to implement the "Neither East nor West" policy in its true sense, but has the mission to aggravate the climate of suspicion and nonconfidence between Iran and our neighbors, and foremost of all between Iran and the Soviet Union. Namely, this is accurately implementing the orders of diplomatic and security officials of U.S. and British imperialism with the aim of leading our nation's glorious popular and anti-imperialist revolution toward total defeat and destruction, and of returning our homeland into the clutches of the British and American colonialists.

The best way in foreign policy to implement these sinister aims is to portray the enemy as a friend and the friend as an enemy, and deprive the revolution of the support of its true friends and backers. These gentlemen, who are seeing that the toiling masses and the true revolutionaries are realizing their sinister aims day by day and are rebelling against them, are trying like a drowning person who clutches at any straw, to hold to the seat of treachery to the homeland and to the blood of thousands of martyrs. However, they should know that Iran's toiling people will punish them for their treacheries too, the same as Khal'atbari, the accursed shah's foreign minister, and will throw them into the dustbin of history.

CSO: 4640/257

SYRIA TO RECEIVE 6 MILLION TONS OF IRANIAN OIL

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Apr 83 p 2

[Article: "According To A Contract Concluded Between Iran and Syria: Iran Will Export 6 Million Tons of Oil To Syria In One Year"]

[Text] At the conclusion of the Syrian delegation's trip, an oil contract and a memorandum of understanding were signed between the two countries' authorities. According to the concluded contract, the Islamic Republic of Iran will export 6 million tons of oil to Syria in one year.

According to a report by the Islamic Republic News Agency, the economic-commercial and oil delegation of the Arab Republic of Syria left Tehran yesterday afternoon after one week of talks with the Iranian authorities and after signing a memorandum of understanding concerning commerce and the Syrian acceptance of more Iranian pilgrims and also signing an oil contract.

This memorandum of understanding was signed by our minister of commerce on behalf of Iran, and Salim Yasin, minister of economic and foreign trade, on behalf of Syria. And, according to it, the two sides agreed upon providing for each other's needs.

After signing the memorandum of understanding between Iran and Syria, our country's Minister of Commerce--concerning contents of this memorandum of understanding said: "This signed memorandum of understanding has the same contents as the memorandum of understanding signed last year, that, with more accurate studies of the two countries, we hope to expand new grounds for cooperation with joint efforts."

Concerning the Iranian pilgrims in Syria, he said: With the negotiations that were carried out and considering the possibilities, the results of negotiations will soon be announced. With regard to exchange of goods, 'Asgar-Owladi announced: The Islamic Republic of Iran will export oil to Syria and will purchase barley, lentiles, textiles and some chemicals from that country. He added: Concerning the purchasing goods from Syria, the Islamic Republic of Iran has no limitations and whatever we need--we will buy from this country--if they have the possibilities.

Then, the Syrian Minister of Economics and Commerce told IRNA: The contract and the memorandum of understanding that were signed the day before yesterday and yesterday were the results of negotiations and studies by the two countries' experts. He added: The purpose of these talks is to strengthen and expand the economic, commercial, cultural and social relationships between the Arab Republic of Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Concerning the results of the talks, Salim Yasin said: By signing this memorandum of understanding and the agreement, the governments of the two countries are seeking continuous strength and expansion of the two countries' relationship in all areas.

After the remarks of Syria's minister of economic and foreign trade, Mohammad Gharazi, Oil Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said: According to the contract that was signed last year, the Islamic Republic of Iran was supposed to export 8.7 million tons of crude oil to Syria for one year which is renewable to up to 10 years. Gharazi said: According to the contract signed yesterday, Iran will export 6 million tons of oil to that country in one year, which could be 20 percent less or more, by mutual agreement. Of this 6 million tons, 5 million is in the form of cash and barter and 1 million tons is to aid warriors and Syrian brothers against usurper Israel. He added: Any quantity of goods that is exchanged will be deducted from the sale account and the remainder will be paid in cash. He hoped that this contract will be executed completely.

Then, 'Abd al-Jabbar al-Dhahhak, Syria's minister of oil and mines, said: The oil contract that was signed this year is the continuation of the last year's contract. This contract includes exchange of oil for ten years. He added: Our experience was the first experience that was accompanied by success. 'Abd al-Dhahhak said: In the current year, a contract was signed on the basis of which 6 million tons of oil has been determined for Syria annually, that its price has been paid in dollars and part of it will be executed in the form of commercial exchange.

At the conclusion, he said: We believe that this contract will continue and these talks are beneficial for two countries.

1980: 4/26/264

IRAN CLANDESTINE COMMENTS ON IRANIAN CASUALTIES IN WAR

GF211724 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 21 Jun 83

[Unattributed commentary: "Talk of the Day"]

[Text] While Sayyad-Shirazi mentions 100,000 casualties, another source of the Islamic Republic estimates the number of Iranians killed in the war at 200,000. But the international news agencies have announced that since the beginning of the war between the Islamic Republic and Iraq, more than 500,000 Iranians have been killed in the wilderness and deserts in the south and the southwest of Iran, despite the Islamic Republic regime's attempts to conceal the facts.

Yes, the result of the war initiated by the faction of the Imamis line with regard to casualties and loss of men and material has no parallel in history from the period of World War II until the present-day. The power struggle between the various factions of the Islamic Republic's ruling party ever since the arrest of the Tudeh Party's leaders in February has assumed greater proportions, and the (?question is) what will be the outcome of the war. Will those who wish to see the end of this sanguinary game have the capacity to win over their opponents or will the policy of the Tudeh Party on escalating the war continue to be the policy of the Islamic Republic. [as heard]

The sermons of the Friday imams during the past few weeks [words indistinct] with the followers of the imam's line in the Islamic Majlis in favor of the war and most important of all, the atmosphere prevailing over the Supreme Defense Council indicates that the Tudeh religious faction is in favor of prolonging the war and the continuation of the schizophrenic policy for their own (?ends) at the cost of sacrificing all the resources and the human and material wealth of Iran. They have succeeded in winning the support of the (?satan) of Jamaran.

The recent message of Ruhollah Khomeyni on Saturday is evidence of this support and backing.

CSO: 4640/258

IRANIAN CLANDESTINE COMMENTS ON MONTAZERI

GF201816 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 20 Jun 83

[Unattributed commentary: "Sheykh Montazeri and the War are Synonymous"]

[Text] The Tudeh Party is in prison but the religious Tudeh's continue to reign. The truth is that even though on the surface Tudeh Party has been destroyed what remains important is the Tudeh's mental attitudes and philosophy continue in the philosophy and programs of the Islamic Republican Government, the government of Ruhollah Khomeyni. The leftist faction, the Tudeh's imami faction, after a planned withdrawal, again has put its claws on all the instruments and functions of the government and has captured all instruments of decisionmaking as the victorious force.

The religious rightists, the Hojjatiyeh, moderate factions, and even (?religious leaders) no longer have any room to maneuver. Their power, at least in the decisionmaking centers, (?has dwindled). If we exclude the foreign policy of the Islamic regime, the Hojjatiyeh has very little power in any other areas or organizations. A Western journalist who recently returned from Iran wrote: The Imamis, led by Hashemi-raftsanjani, have been able to again put the committees, armed forces, and the supreme defense council under their control and force the Hojjatiyeh faction to withdraw after their small move forward. The Imamis, in this creeping movement, enjoy the support of the person of Ruhollah Khomeyni. Even moderate religious figures such as Ayatollah Golpayegani, who strongly opposes leftist plans for the Islamic Republic, have for sometime preferred silence over voicing their discontent, and this shows the considerable extent of the defeat of the non-Tudeh factions in the regime of Ruhollah Khomeyni. A regime that in philosophy, religion, and attitude is armed to the teeth with Tudeh philosophy.

We should also not forget that the left is gradually trying to create a new Khomeyni in Qom whose difference with the real Khomeyni is that he has no inhibitions in voicing leftist philosophy. He is Mullah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, a man that even the most reactionary and fanatical religious faction has no respect for. In religious circles in Qom it is said that following Khomeyni's death the first group to rise against this ignorant sheykh will be the religious students and Ulema. Even now the ground for an uprising against Montazeri is being prepared. A student at Qom's theological center said: The only person who, among 40 million Iranians, will have no chance of replacing Khomeyni after death will be Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri. Another student has told a French jour-

...that the leftist faction, by giving priority to the war and by creating an uproar around a man who is shunned as a source of emulation by even the lowliest mullah of the Islamic Republic, is trying to ensure the continuation of the regime. He added: It is not surprising that in the eyes of the Imamis, Montazeri and the war are synonymous since Montazeri, as an element with special ties to some of the extremist Arab factions, has always been the one who has explained the war away in the Islamic Republic.

CSO: 4540/259

IRAN

BRIEFS

ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE--The text of a confidential letter from Khomeyni's embassy in Paris has been published in an expatriate Persian publication. It reads: Very Confidential. From the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, France-Paris, to the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Subject:--Armed People. Number:--11765.85 Date:--5/11/61 [corresponding to 25 Jan 83] Reference to the letter number:--91567.542, dated:--5/10/61 [corresponding to 26 Dec 82] We inform you that the military group for "L" plan activities has entered the country, but unfortunately the French police have created problems for them because they are carrying diplomatic passports. We ask you to halt sending other groups until further contact. [Text] [GF220814 (Clandestine) Seda-ye Iran Radio in Persian 1930 GMT 21 Jun 83]

CSO: 4640/256

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORTS ON SITUATION IN COUNTRY

AU051609 Rome ANSA in English 1554 GMT 5 Jul 83

[Text] [ANSA] Rome, 5 July--Political suspect Sri Lankans are being held in isolation without trial for extended periods and submitted to tortures in military and police camps and barracks, amnesty international said here today.

The Italian chapter of the London-based human rights organization said the tortures included being suspended head-down by the cheeks, beatings with metal bars, and having needles inserted under toe and finger nails.

An amnesty international mission went to Sri Lanka on 31 January-9 February last year and interviewed 26 witnesses of human rights violations in security operations carried out in connection with robberies and slayings blamed on the Asian island's Tamil speaking separatists.

The Tamil Sri Lankans, of whom many want greater autonomy, or even an independent state, include descendants of ancient Indian invaders, but also Indian Tamils brought to the island by the English in the early 19th century to work on plantations in the hill country. Although most of them are native born, they are regarded by many Sinhalese as foreigners.

According to amnesty international, since the mission and publication of its report, the organization has continued receiving information indicating that the situation has not changed.

According to the Nobel Peace Prize--winning organization, at least six of the prisoners whose cases were studied by the mission have now been in jail without trial for over 2 years, while arrests have continued too.

The arrests are rarely reported and the families are not informed, Amnesty International said, arguing that this means detailed figures are hard to come by, but it said 65 political prisoners are currently in detention.

Prisoners released for lack of proof told amnesty international delegates they were kept chained to an iron grid in a military camp for up to 6 months. Another said he had been handcuffed and tied supine for months.

In another camp, Amnesty International reported, a detainee was forced to crawl across pieces of glass and red pepper was stuffed up his nostrils with a nail. "We kept you inside because you were a suspect," an army captain told him 10 days after arrest, "but now we know you're innocent, so you can go."

Amnesty International admitted that the Tamil separatists have also used violence to advance their cause, but it said it was unacceptable to torture and kill members of the opposition in jail.

The Amnesty International report contained 12 recommendations which would bring Sri Lanka's treatment of its prisoners in line with the human rights provisions in the Sri Lankan constitution and UN standards.

They included the publication of information on arrests, access for lawyers, the creation of an independent Ombuds-committee to assess charges of torture, application of the rules of evidence to all cases, and the formulation of charges on the basis of evidence other than policy testimony.

Amnesty International received assurances that its delegates would be able to meet government officials during last year's mission, but this access was then denied, the Amnesty International office here reported.

It added that the 72-page report was sent to Sri Lanka President J. R. Jayewardene on 7 February this year.

The organization then made another attempt to obtain a meeting with the government, and once more said it would publish the government's comments on the report.

But Amnesty International reported that, on 6 April, it was informed "it will not be possible for the president or nay other representative of the government to discuss the report with us."

CSO: 4600/730

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